

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

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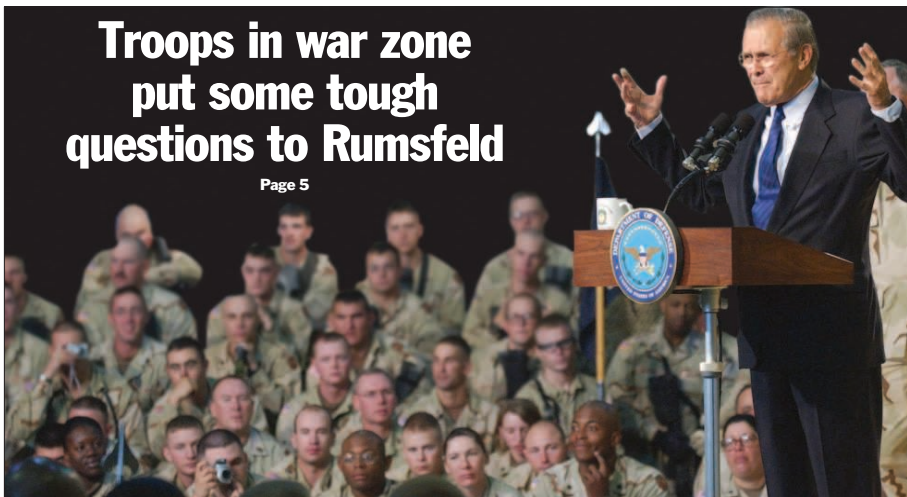
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2004

# Ruling said to weaken DOD's policy on gays

Military court overturns soldier's conviction on sodomy charge Page 6

## Troops in war zone put some tough questions to Rumsfeld

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Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld delivers a speech to American troops Wednesday at Camp Udairi, north of Kuwait City. Some servicemembers at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, complained to Rumsfeld about the lack of armor for their vehicles and long deployments, drawing a blunt retort from the Pentagon chief: "You go to war with the Army you have," he said.

AP

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Housing development arson:** Investigators want to talk to the driver of a blue van that firefighters saw leaving a housing development in Indian Head, Md., where dozens of homes under construction burned, authorities said Wednesday.

Arson has been ruled the cause at least seven of the fires, and although the investigators do not know if the van was involved, they want to speak with the driver, said Capt. Joe Montminy of the Charles County sheriff's office.

The development, about 25 miles south of Washington, had been criticized by environmentalists, and investigators have not ruled out ecoterrorism, or any other motive such as race, in the blaze that destroyed 12 homes and damaged 14.

**Sept. 11 Fund disbanding:** A Sept. 11 charity backed by a large celebrity-fueled telethon will close its doors Wednesday, having raised more than \$500 million, officials said.

The Sept. 11 Fund collected \$534 million, aided in large part by a telephone appeal from some of the biggest names in film, television and music.

The one-night fund-raiser 10 days after the 2001 attacks featured George Clooney, Tom Hanks and Bruce Springsteen, and viewers responded by donating nearly \$130 million for victims and their families.

**Antifreeze murder case:** Prosecutors in Georgia said Tuesday they will seek the death penalty against a woman convicted of fatally poisoning her husband with antifreeze and accused of killing a boyfriend the same way.

**Lynn Turner, 36,** was indicted in October on a charge of malice murder in the 2001 death of her boyfriend, firefighter Randy Thompson. In May, she was convicted in the 1995 murder of her husband, police officer Glenn Turner, and sentenced to life in prison.

Authorities allege life insurance was the motive in both cases.

**Kevorkian parole appeal:** The Michigan parole board declined to commute Jack Kevorkian's murder sentence or grant the assisted suicide advocate parole, saying his claims of ill health mirrored claims he had made just a year ago.

In a letter sent to Kevorkian's lawyer, the board said the application essentially was the same as one it rejected in November 2003, and said another attempt could be made for similar requests only after a full two years had passed.

Kevorkian's lawyer, Mayer Morganroth, said he would go directly to Gov. Jennifer Granholm and ask her to consider parole or a commuted sentence for the 76-year-old.

**Peterson sentencing:** Jurors in Redwood City, Calif., won't be allowed to consider sympathy for Scott Peterson's family when they decide if he should receive the death penalty.

Defense lawyer Mark Geragos argued that jury instructions should allow panels to consider the affect a death sentence would have on Peterson's family, given that the fetus was to be a grandson to both the victim's and the defendant's parents.

But Judge Alfred A. Delucchi declined to include the clause in jury instructions.

### World

**Palestinian elections:** Israel and the Palestinians have agreed on the logistics of the upcoming election to replace Yasser Arafat, a senior Palestinian official said Wednesday.



Ky. child murders: Carolyn Marksberry, left, and Chuck Marksberry, center, look at Marco Allen Chapman during a hearing in Burlington, Ky. Chapman pleaded guilty Tuesday to stabbing two of the Marksberry's children, 6-year-old Cody Sharon and 7-year-old Chelbi Sharon, and asked a judge to sentence him to death. "For what I did to the Marksberrys, my death is some way of redemption to them," Marco Allen Chapman said. "My life has never been worth much, I'll give it freely to them." The judge set a sentencing date for Dec. 14.

day, but he denied reports that the two sides had worked out a broader deal to end their decades-old conflict.

The Palestinians had demanded that Israel cease military operations and withdraw from Palestinian cities and towns to allow candidates to campaign for the Jan. 9 presidential elections to replace Arafat, who died last month.

The Palestinians also insisted that residents of east Jerusalem be allowed to vote, a demand that Israel has resisted. The Palestinians want east Jerusalem, annexed by Israel after the 1967 Mideast war, to be their future capital.

**Serb war crimes fugitive:** Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who has been the U.N. war crimes tribunal's top fugitive for nearly a decade, will not surrender, his brother said Wednesday.

"I know how he thinks and there is no one in the world who could talk him into surrendering," the fugitive's brother, Luka Karadzic, told The Associated Press.

**U.S.-Europe alliance:** Secretary of State Colin Powell challenged Europe on Wednesday to play a more active role with the United States in pursuing peace and democracy in the Middle East and Iraq.

"We need to have the courage to seek fundamental change and not be satisfied with just managing or containing threats," Powell told a gathering of young people ahead of a meeting of a NATO foreign ministers meeting on Thursday.

He said he was hopeful for a break in the impasse between Israel and the Palestinians, adding that the U.S. and European institutions must help that process along and make contributions elsewhere in the region.

**Turkey EU membership:** Turkey's foreign minister on Wednesday ruled out formal recognition of Cyprus before the divided island is reunited — a blunt message to European Union leaders demanding that Turkey take a step on the issue ahead of a key summit next week.

EU leaders are likely to open membership talks with Turkey at the Dec. 17 EU summit, but Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos has warned that his country may veto such a decision if Ankara refuses to recognize his country, which joined the EU in May. Several EU leaders have been pressuring Turkey to compromise on the issue.

**N. Korea nuclear talks:** A key U.S. envoy

on the North Korean nuclear issue met officials in Seoul on Wednesday amid a flurry of diplomacy aimed at persuading Pyongyang to return to six-nation talks on convincing it to abandon its nuclear ambitions.

Joseph DeTrani and Cho Tae-yong, head of Seoul's task force for the nuclear dispute, discussed the crisis that erupted in late 2002 after U.S. officials said North Korea admitted running a secret nuclear program in violation of international agreements.

Following the meeting, Cho told South Korean reporters that DeTrani expressed "disappointment" that no date for the next round of six-party talks has yet been fixed.

**Ukraine electoral reforms:** Ukraine's parliament adopted electoral and constitutional changes Wednesday in a compromise intended to defuse the nation's political crisis — prompting opposition leaders to say they would lift a two-week blockade of government buildings.

The vote came as a surprise after days of political maneuvering and massive street protests following the disputed Nov. 21 presidential runoff election. It suggested that opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko's camp had determined that the prolonged unrest could ultimately weaken the country and his own position ahead of a Dec. 26 rerun of that vote.

### Military

**U.S. Army deserter in Canada:** An American seeking to become the first U.S. soldier granted refugee status in Canada after refusing to serve in Iraq told immigration officials Tuesday that the Army was drilling its soldiers to think of all Arabs and Muslims as potential terrorists.



Hinzman

"We were being told that it was a new kind of war, that these were evil people and they had to be dealt with," Pfc. Jeremy Hinzman, 26, told the Immigration and Refugee Board the second of his three-day hearing for political asylum.

Hinzman is arguing that the war in Iraq is illegal and fighting in it would have made him a war criminal.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

# .S. combat deaths at 1,001

## Iraq total posted on DOD site amid Samarra clashes

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The Pentagon said Wednesday that the number of U.S. combat deaths in Operation Iraqi Freedom now is above 1,000. An American soldier was slain Tuesday by small-arms fire while on patrol in Baghdad.

On Wednesday, the Pentagon's Web site listed the total number of U.S. combat deaths at 1,001.

The military also said a Marine died in a vehicle accident in western Baghdad. The two deaths brought the number of U.S. military who have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003 to 1,279, according to an Associated Press tally.

In Iraq, insurgents launched assaults around Samarra on Wednesday, trading gunfire with U.S. forces, attacking a convoy, and blowing up a police station after looting its armory.

The gunmen in Samarra stormed a police station, looted the weapons inside and blew up the building, according to a police officer. A policeman and a child standing nearby were killed during the clashes before the insurgents fled.

The violence in Samarra killed four Iraqis and wounded several others. The city's police chief later announced he was resigning, his house was attacked earlier Wednesday and he said his family had asked him not to go back to work.

When I felt that I wasn't carrying out my duties as I should, I had to give an opportunity for someone else to carry on," Maj Gen. Talib Shamel al-Samarrai said.

American soldiers were also attacked by small-arms fire near a traffic intersection, but no one was hurt. The soldiers began checking cars after the incident and fired at two vehicles that failed to stop when ordered to, killing both drivers, the military said.

A suicide bomber also detonated his explosives-packed car near two U.S. Bradley fighting vehicles parked outside an American base, injuring one Iraqi civilian, while insurgents attacked American forces at another location with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades. No U.S. casualties were sustained.

The U.S. military halted its September-October operation to retake control of Samarra as a success, but violence there has persisted. American and Iraqi forces have killed 127 fighters and 20 civilians.



British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon visits British troops in Basra, Iraq, on Wednesday. As Hoon discussed preparations for Iraq's Jan. 30 elections with Basra's governor, U.S. troops fought insurgents who launched multiple assaults in Samarra. Wednesday also marked the day the total number of U.S. combat deaths in Iraq reached 1,001, according to the Pentagon.

Residents say many local police are refusing to go to work, fearing insurgents will target them for supporting U.S.-led efforts to maintain security in the city.

Clashes also broke out in Ramadi between American troops and insurgents around a U.S. base. A hospital official said three civilians were killed and one was wounded.

A series of attacks in recent days have killed more than 80 Iraqis, mostly members of the country's fledgling security forces.

The attacks are of particular concern because Iraqi and U.S. officials have insisted next month's elections will go ahead despite the violence and the fact that some insurgent strongholds have been too dangerous for voter registration to begin.

In southern Iraq, British Defense Minister Geoff Hoon met with some of Britain's 9,000 soldiers who recently returned from a mission in support of U.S.-led efforts to clear insurgents from a wide area south of Baghdad, spokesman Maj. David Gibb said.

Hoon discussed election preparations with Basra's governor, Hassan al-Rashid, during his one-day visit.

Basra, some 340 miles southeast of Baghdad, is close to Iraq's long and porous border

with Iran. Hoon's visit comes at a time when Iraq's U.S.-installed authorities are calling on their neighbors — particularly Syria and Iran — to guard their borders more closely against infiltration by insurgents.

Jordan's King Abdullah II and Iraq's interim president, both Sunni Muslims, singled out Shiite Muslim-dominated Iran, accusing it of trying to influence the elections, in which Iraq's majority Shiites are expected to perform strongly.

In other violence, clashes between police and gunmen in the northern city of Mosul left four militants dead and two commandos wounded, Lt. Col. Jaleel al-Dulaimi said. Insurgents attacked the commando checkpoint on a highway with sniper fire and rocket-propelled grenades, al-Dulaimi said, adding that there were unconfirmed reports of civilian casualties.

A roadside bomb in Baghdad wounded two American soldiers, who later returned to duty, U.S. military spokesman Maj. Jay Anttonelli said. Hospital officials said six Iraqis were wounded.

Police found the beheaded corpse of an Iraqi National Guardsman in the Hilla River, some 60 miles south of Baghdad, hospital official Hussein Madlof said. It wasn't clear when he was killed.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,279 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 999 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Tuesday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,141 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 890 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ One Marine was killed Tuesday in a nonhostile vehicle accident in Anbar province.

■ One U.S. soldier died Tuesday in Baghdad of wounds received from small arms fire.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Col. Joseph O. Benlike, 45, New York, died in a vehicle accident Saturday in Baghdad, assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, New York City.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Kyle A. Eggers, 27, Eufaula, Texas, died Sunday in Habbaniya when his vehicle was struck by an explosive, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Greaves, South Korea.

■ Army Sgt. Michael L. Boatright, 24, Whitesboro, Texas, killed by an explosive Saturday in Baghdad, assigned to the 20th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

## Saddam's attorney says U.S. kept him from visiting client

BY JAMAL HALABY

The Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — The chief defense lawyer for Saddam Hussein blamed the United States for the cancellation Wednesday of a first meeting between the defense team and the former Iraqi dictator.

Ziad al-Khasawneh said in an interview that the Iraqi Bar Association had obtained court permission for defense lawyer Khalil al-Dulaimi, an Iraqi, to meet Saddam on Wednesday.

"But the syndicate called the later earlier today to say the meeting has been indefinitely postponed," said al-Khasawneh, who heads the Jordan-based legal team

“The abrupt cancellation indicates that there was a last-minute decision to ban the meeting.”

Ziad al-Khasawneh

Head of Saddam Hussein's legal team

appointed by Saddam's wife Sajida.

"The abrupt cancellation indicates that there was a last-minute decision to ban the meeting," he said. "That decision appears to have come from the top, neither from the court nor from the Iraqi government, because both have no say in front of Iraq's real ruler, the United States of America."

"There was obviously an American veto on the meeting," al-Khasawneh said.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy, Vicki Stein, said late Wednesday she was not aware of the cancellation but would look into it.

Officials from the Iraqi Bar Association in Baghdad were not immediately available for comment. An Iraqi Interior Ministry official said

he had no information on the purported meeting.

The U.S. authorities in Iraq have previously refused to let lawyers see Saddam, who was arrested in December 2003 and is being held in a U.S.-controlled jail.

No lawyer was at Saddam's side when he was arraigned July 1 in Baghdad on charges that included killing rival politicians over 30 years, gassing Kurds, invading Kuwait in 1990 and suppressing Kurdish and Shiite uprisings in 1991.

Saddam's legal team consists of 20 lead lawyers and another 1,500 volunteers. The lead lawyers come from various countries including the United States, Britain, France, Jordan, Lebanon and Libya. Most of the volunteer lawyers are from Arab countries.



Saddam Hussein

# Lack of security slows Red Cross in Iraq

BY ALEXANDER G. HIGGINS  
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The international Red Cross will continue its visits to Saddam Hussein and other detainees in Iraq despite security problems that have caused other aid groups to withdraw, the head of the neutral agency said Wednesday.

"In spite of the terrible attack against our delegation on Oct. 27, 2003, the ICRC has never stopped its activities in Iraq," said Jakob Kellenberger, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross. "The ICRC is one of the very few organizations still having expatriate staff in Iraq."

**"The ICRC is one of the very few organizations still having expatriate staff in Iraq."**

**Jakob Kellenberger**

president of the International Committee of the Red Cross

The agency, however, did cut back its operations considerably after the suicide truck bombing heavily damaged its Baghdad headquarters and killed two Red Cross employees and as many as 10 other people outside the compound.

Kellenberger said the agency also continues to pass messages between separated families, and

provides water and medical assistance to Iraqis.

"The clear priority is the visits of the main detention centers in Iraq," he told reporters.

But moving around in the central part of the country remains a major problem because of security threats.

"We don't feel that the security situation has improved," Kellen-

berger added. "And that is one of the reasons why we cannot envisage an extension of our activities at the moment."

But, he added, "I have to be a bit modest in this type of assessment because naturally our presence in the field is pretty limited."

The ICRC has cited its inability to receive security assurances from all sides as the main reason it has been unable to assess conditions in Fallujah since Nov. 8, when U.S.-led forces launched their offensive against insurgents in the city west of Baghdad.

"We do the utmost to get in touch with all the actors, who may have an influence on the con-

dition situation in Iraq," Kellenberger said. "But I cannot say we have succeeded in this perfectly. And we still do not know really who attacked us on Oct. 27, 2003."

He said he didn't have the latest number of detainees being visited by the ICRC in Iraq, but an aide said delegates were still seeing "several thousand" people being held by U.S. and other forces.

"We are visiting Saddam Hussein regularly," he added.

He declined to say how frequently, but other ICRC officials have said delegates visit the former Iraqi president every six to eight weeks and check on his conditions, just as they do other detainees.



**Baday Amir Abdel-Jabar holds her daughter, Fatemah, at their home in Mandali, Iraq. The 14-month-old Iraqi girl was treated for a birth defect by doctors at Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. Fatemah was given chemotherapy and is being medicated until she is old enough for surgery at age 5.**

Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army

## U.S. task force helps baby

BY STEVE LIEWER  
Stars and Stripes

A 14-month-old Iraqi girl has returned home after six months of treatment in Ohio for a disfiguring birth defect, according to a news release from the Tikrit-based Task Force Danger.

Doctors at Children's Hospital in Columbus had treated Fatemah Hassan since May for a cavernous hemangioma, an abnormal growth of blood vessels on the right side of her face, neck and upper chest that had swelled to the size of two softball, the release said. The condition is treatable in the United States, but rural Iraq lacks the necessary medicines and surgeons.

Last spring, Fatemah's mother, Baday Amir Abdel-Jabar, had brought the girl to the front gate of Forward Operating Base Rough Rider, a U.S. military base near her hometown of Mandali, the release said. Mandali is about 75 miles northeast of Baghdad, near the Iranian border. FOB Rough Rider has since been closed.

Lt. Col. Todd Fredericks, a surgeon for the West Virginia Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 150th Armor Regiment, worked with the Iraqi Defense Ministry and the Coalition Provisional Authority to arrange transportation to Columbus, according to the release. Fredericks knew doctors from Ohio State University who would treat Fatemah for free.

The doctors there at first had planned to operate but decided to postpone the surgery until the girl turns 5, the release said. Instead, they treated the girl with chemotherapy. She will continue to take medicine until she is old enough for the operation, according to the release.

While in Columbus, the baby and her mother lived with a Muslim family and commuted to the hospital, the release said. She returned to Mandali in November.

Task Force Danger is commanded by the Germany-based 1st Infantry Division and comprises 22,000 soldiers patrolling a large area north and east of Baghdad.

E-mail Steve Liewer at: [liewers@mail.ustripes.osd.mil](mailto:liewers@mail.ustripes.osd.mil)

## Staggered-elections plan picks up support in Iraq

BY SAMEER N. YACOB  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's Interior Ministry on Wednesday threw its weight behind a reported suggestion by Prime Minister Ayad Allawi to hold next month's national elections over several days, rather than just one.

But Iraq's Independent Electoral Commission, which has final say over the scheduled Jan. 30 vote, said it was still trying to confirm Allawi's published comments and insisted no official change had been made in the way voting will be held.

Allawi made the proposal in comments published Tuesday in two European newspapers, Belgium's *Le Soir* and Switzerland's *Le Temps*.

He said Iraq's upcoming vote could be held over two or three weeks across

the country to allow security forces to protect polling stations effectively.

"If people have more than one day to vote, there will be shorter lines and thus there will be less danger and less victims if something bad happens, although we have taken the necessary measures to secure the voting process," Interior Ministry spokesman Sabah Khazim said.

"It is an excellent idea and it will make it easier for the Interior Ministry regarding securing the elections," he said.

The handling of the vote has become a key issue in Iraq recently, with insurgents threatening to attack polling stations and the country's Sunni Muslim minority demanding a postponement.

Some insurgent strongholds have been too dangerous for the registration process to begin.



**South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun is greeted by an unidentified South Korean Army soldier upon his arrival at their base in Irbil, northern Iraq, on Wednesday. Roh's visit was a surprise to the 3,600 South Korean troops in Iraq.**

AP

## Visit surprises S. Koreans

### President drops in on troops rebuilding northern Iraq

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — President Roh Moo-hyun made a surprise visit Wednesday to northern Iraq where 3,600 South Korean troops are helping rebuild the violence-wrecked country, his office said.

The trip came as a parliamentary committee on Wednesday approved a government proposal to extend the deployment of South Korean troops in Iraq for another year. The bill must be

approved by a plenary session of the National Assembly; it convenes Thursday.

The president was on his way home from a trip to France when he stopped over in the Kurdish town of Irbil to support the soldiers there, Roh's spokesman, Lee Byung-wan, said in a statement.

Television footage showed a cheerful Roh eating breakfast with troops, who greeted his arrival with applause. He wore the same sand-colored uniform as the soldiers. Roh was to return to South Korea early Thursday.



# GIs grill Rumsfeld on lack of armor

By ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — Disgruntled U.S. soldiers complained to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Wednesday about the lack of armor for their vehicles and long deployments, drawing a blunt retort from the Pentagon chief.

"You go to war with the Army you have," he said in a rare public airing of rank-and-file concerns among the troops.

In his prepared remarks earlier, Rumsfeld had urged the troops — mostly National Guard and Reserve soldiers — to discount critics of the war in Iraq and to help "win the test of wills" with the insurgents.

Army Spc. Thomas Wilson of the 278th Regimental Combat Team that is comprised mainly of citizen soldiers of the Tennessee Army National Guard, asked Rumsfeld in a question-and-answer session why vehicle armor is still in short supply, nearly two years after the start of the war that ousted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Why do we soldiers have to dig through local landfills for pieces of scrap metal and compromised ballistic glass to uparmor our vehicles?" Wilson asked. A big cheer arose from the approximately 2,300 soldiers in the cavernous hangar.

Rumsfeld hesitated and asked Wilson to repeat his question.

"We do not have proper armored vehicles to carry with us north," Wilson said after asking again.

Rumsfeld replied that troops should make the best of the condi-



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has his picture taken Wednesday with American soldiers at Camp Udhair, north of Kuwait City, Kuwait.

AP photos

tions they face and said the Army was pushing manufacturers of vehicle armor to produce it as fast as humanly possible.

Another soldier complained that active-duty Army units sometimes get priority over the National Guard and Reserve units for the best equipment in Iraq.

"There's no way I can prove it, but I am told the Army is breaking its neck to see that there is not discrimination against the National Guard and Reserve in terms of providing equipment, Rumsfeld said.

Yet another soldier asked, without putting it to Rumsfeld as a direct criticism, how much longer the Army will continue using its "stop loss" power to prevent soldiers from leaving the service who are otherwise eligible to retire or quit.

Rumsfeld said that this condition was simply a fact of life for soldiers at time of war.



At Camp Buehring, Kuwait, Spc. Thomas Wilson, left, of the 278th Regimental Combat Team — comprised mainly of reservists in the Tennessee Army National Guard — asks Rumsfeld why vehicle armor is still in short supply, nearly two years after the war in Iraq began.

## Report: Defense workers warned not to talk about treatment of detainees

By PAISLEY DODDS

The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — U.S. special operations forces accused of abusing prisoners in Iraq warned defense intelligence personnel not to talk about the alleged mistreatment they saw, according to a government memo to a top adviser of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

In the memo written June 25 after the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal had gone public, the head of the Defense Intelligence Agency complained about the harassment of DIA personnel, including one case where special forces confiscated photos of a prisoner they punched.

Defense intelligence workers also had their e-mails monitored and were ordered by a special operations task force "not to talk to anyone" about what they saw, said the memo, which was among internal documents released Tuesday by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Prisoners arriving at a detention center in Baghdad had "burn marks on their backs" as well as bruises and some complained of

kidney pain, Vice Admiral Lowell E. Jacoby, the defense intelligence chief, wrote to Stephen Cambone, undersecretary of defense for intelligence.

FBI agents also reported seeing detainees at Abu Ghraib subjected to sleep deprivation, humiliation and forced nudity between October and December 2003 — when the most serious abuses allegedly took place in a scandal that remains under investigation.

The release of the ACLU documents came a day after The Associated Press reported that a senior FBI official wrote a letter to the FBI and U.S. military and intelligence task forces running prisoner interrogations at Guantanamo and in Iraq as the Bush administration sought better intelligence to fight terrorists and the deadly Iraq insurgency.

Vickie Chachere of The Associated Press contributed to this report from Tampa, Fla.

## Navy photo review

SAN DIEGO — Preliminary findings of a military inquiry suggest that some of the recently published photographs of Navy special forces capturing detainees in Iraq were taken for legitimate intelligence-gathering purposes and showed commandos using approved procedures, a Navy spokesman said.

The photos, which have drawn a strong reaction in Arab media, also appear to show Navy SEALs sitting or lying on top of hooded and handcuffed detainees in the back of a pickup truck.

Citing the ongoing investigation, a spokesman for the Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado on Monday declined comment on the pickup truck pictures, which were among 40 images of detainees an Associated Press reporter found on a commercial photo-sharing Web site posted by a woman who said her husband brought them from Iraq.

Senior officers at the SEALs headquarters said other photos are "consistent with the use of tactics, techniques and procedures in the apprehension of detainees," Navy Cmdr. Jeff Bender said.

He cited as an example a photo in which a uniformed man is holding the head of a prisoner to pose him for a picture for "identification purposes." A gun with an attached flashlight is being used to illuminate the detainee's face for the photograph, Bender said.

Taking photos of prisoners for administrative or intelligence purposes is an exception to Navy regulations that generally forbid unofficial photos of prisoners of war.

From wire reports

## Details of CIA death still hazy

By RICHARD A. SERRANO

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — A group of captives from Afghanistan has told FBI agents that CIA Officer Johnny "Mike" Spann became the first American to die in a clash in Afghanistan after he shot to death a prisoner who was attempting to attack him, possibly sparing the prison riot that claimed his life.

The events surrounding Spann's death three years ago have never been fully explained by U.S. officials. Government accounts have said he was swarmed by angry Taliban soldiers at the prison and crushed or beaten to death, but his father has suggested that his son may have been shoved by his knees and shot execution-style.

No concrete details emerged in the court case of John Walker Lindh, the so-called American Taliban from Marin County, Calif., who had been interrogated by Spann shortly before the CIA agent died. The Afghan prisoners said Lindh shouted out around the time of the prison uprising that he was "an American and spoke English" in an attempt to escape harm from U.S. and anti-Taliban Northern Alliance forces.

The newly public FBI reports, released Tuesday along with several hundred pages of other documents obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union in a lawsuit against the federal government seeking information on the treatment of detainees, do not indicate whether the accounts of the detainees were considered believable by U.S. officials. Four prisoners now being held at the U.S. naval

base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, were interviewed by the FBI. Their accounts describe Spann as wearing blue jeans, an AK-47 rifle slung over his back and a pistol on his hip, trying to interview Taliban captives — including Lindh — when he was attacked by a prison riot.

Spann, one captive told the FBI, "was jumped by an Arab or Pakistani male, but the armed man [Spann] shot the prisoner. People began running, and chaos ensued."

Spann's death and Lindh's capture unfolded as a national drama in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, with Spann hailed as a hero while Lindh was vilified as an American traitor.

But because Lindh never went to trial — instead pleading guilty to reduced charges in return for a 20-year sentence — complete details of the deadly Sunday at Mazar-e-Sharif have never emerged. Videotape later broadcast by news organizations showed Spann trying to interview Lindh, kneeling in a row alongside other prisoners, but with Lindh refusing to cooperate. The video stopped before the incident could begin.

The FBI interviews with the detainees were conducted months later, after the prisoners were flown to Guantanamo. Spann's father, also named Johnny Spann, a Winfield, Ala., real estate executive, said Tuesday night he has painstakingly searched for information on his 32-year-old son's death but had never heard of his son shooting a prisoner. "I don't know that these FBI reports are right," Spann said in a telephone interview. "And I'm not so sure the prisoners know what they're saying."

*"I don't know that these FBI reports are right. And I'm not so sure the prisoners know what they're saying."*

Johnny Spann  
Victim's father

## Missile defense test

WASHINGTON — The military planned to conduct the first full flight test of its national missile defense system in nearly two years, with the test coming possibly as early as Wednesday evening.

Weather conditions at an Alaska launch site would determine when the test will go forward, said Rick Lehner, a spokesman for the Missile Defense Agency.

The \$85 million test comes as the military is in final preparations to activate missile defenses designed to protect against an intercontinental ballistic missile attack from North Korea or elsewhere in eastern Asia.

During the test, a target missile will be launched from Kodiak Island, Alaska, and an interceptor missile will fire from Kwajalein Island in the central Pacific Ocean.

Because the launches will test several new aspects of the missile defense system, Lehner said the interceptor actually shooting down the target is not a primary goal of the mission.

The test is the first in which the interceptor uses the same booster rocket that the operational system uses, Lehner said. It is also the first in which a target missile is launched from Kodiak.

From The Associated Press

# U.S. military court overturns soldier's sodomy conviction

## Experts: Ruling is equally applicable to homosexual activity

BY MICHAEL DOBBS

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A military appeals court has overturned the conviction of a soldier for consensual sodomy in a decision that gay rights activists are hailing as an important legal victory in removing some of the barriers to homosexual activity in the armed forces.

The previously unreported decision, handed down last week by the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals, builds on a landmark Supreme Court ruling last year that struck down a Texas sodomy statute. It is believed to be the first time that a military court has upheld the right of consenting adults to engage in oral sex in private.

"It undercuts the premise of 'don't ask, don't tell,'" said Washington lawyer David Sheldon, who represents several soldiers fighting their dismissal from the armed forces because of homosexual activity. "We were referring to a Pentagon policy that has led to the discharge of more than 9,000 openly gay servicemen over the past decade."

Last week's court decision involved a male Army specialist who was convicted of engaging in oral sex with a female civilian in a military barracks. Kenneth Bullock was charged under Article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which prohibits "unnatural carnal copulation with another person of the same or opposite sex or with an animal."

Although the case involved a man and a woman, legal experts said the principles invoked by the three military judges were equally applicable to homosexual activity.

The constitutionality of Article 125 has come under assault as a result of last year's Supreme Court decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*, which upheld the notion of a "zone of privacy" for sexual relationships involving consenting adults.

This decision means that "even in the military you have a zone of privacy and can engage in sexual acts in private that used to be considered criminal," said Patricia Locke, senior counsel for Lambda Legal, which seeks to overturn anti-gay military statutes.

Legal experts said the Pentagon could appeal the decision to the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces or to the Supreme Court, on the grounds that the military is a special institution with its own disciplinary procedures. Military lawyers who argued the government's case at the hearing at Fort Polk, La., did not return calls seeking comment.

The Pentagon policy on "don't ask, don't tell" was codified by Congress in a 1993 law that described the military as a distinct social organization that frequently required "forced intimacy with little or no privacy." The law endorsed the right of the armed forces to exclude "persons who demonstrate a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts" that could undermine "moral, good order and discipline."

Gay activists have challenged the Pentagon ban and have won some preliminary skirmishes. This week, a dozen former armed forces members discharged for being gay or lesbian filed suit in federal court in Boston, challenging the constitutionality of "don't ask, don't tell."

## Air Force's top lawyer might face charges

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A military investigation has concluded that the Air Force's top lawyer engaged in improper relationships with more than a dozen women over the last decade, two Defense Department officials familiar with the findings said.



Fiscus

While overseeing the work of 3,200 people, Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Fiscus, the Air Force judge advocate general, allegedly conducted affairs with enlisted women, officers and civilian employees in violation of military rules against fraternization, the officials said.

Charges against Fiscus could be made as early as Wednesday, the officials said. Defense officials and others in the Air Force legal community expect that Fiscus, if found guilty, likely would be drummed out of the ranks of general officers.

# AF Academy commanders faulted in sex assault report

BY JON SARGE

The Associated Press

DENVER — A Pentagon report critical of the role of commanders at the Air Force Academy was blasted as inadequate by at least one former cadet who said she was raped by a classmate.

Inspector General Joseph E. Schmitz blamed, but did not identify, eight Air Force officers for their roles in policies that oversaw sexual-assault reporting at the academy, according to a summary of the report. Twenty-one other officers were found to have acted appropriately.

Schmitz said he and the other Air Force officers who are not on their good list and held them accountable when the officers who actually were the ones committing the wrongdoings at the academy were on the list that were exonerated," former cadet Beth Davis said Tuesday.

Davis, who left the academy as a junior in August 2002, said she was punished for reporting that she was raped — receiving a demerit for having sex in a dorm — and said her alleged attacker was not prosecuted.

The Pentagon did not release Schmitz's full report. Instead, Schmitz quoted from his report in a Dec. 3 memo to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld made public Tuesday.

Schmitz said academy commanders failed to recognize and deal with the seriousness of sexual assaults against female cadets.

Academy leaders should have been better role models and should have kept a closer watch on their commands, he said.



Defense Inspector General Joseph E. Schmitz speaks Tuesday about his report on the sexual assaults at the Air Force Academy, in which he cites commanders with failing to recognize and deal with reports of assault, during a news conference at the Pentagon.

"We conclude that the overall root cause of the sexual assault problems at the Air Force Academy was the failure of successive chains of command over the past 10 years to acknowledge the se-

verity of the problem," Schmitz wrote. Responding to the criticism, assistant Air Force secretary Michael Dominguez said on NBC's "Today" show Wednesday that

## Chain of events

The Associated Press

Timeline of the sexual assault scandal at the Air Force Academy:

- February 2003: Air Force announces review after female cadets complain to Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., that they were ostracized or disciplined after reporting sexual assaults.
- March 2003: Defense Department begins independent inquiry.
- June 2003: An internal Air Force investigation finds no "systemic acceptance" by Air Force officials of assaults.
- July 2003: Lt. Gen. John W. Rosa Jr. installed as superintendent. Former superintendent, Lt. Gen. John Dailinger, demoted to major general for not recognizing and acting on the problems.
- September 2003: Civilian panel mandated by Congress concludes that academy commanders failed to heed warnings about sexual assaults.
- November 2003: Academy announces a review of the role of the athletics department as part of its efforts to address the sexual assault scandal.
- May 2004: The academy's oversight board, under a directive to get more involved in the school, begins a review of the sexual assault scandal.
- June 2004: President Bush delivers a commencement speech, praising Rosa for helping "restore the academy's tradition of honor."
- July 2004: Athletics department review concludes athletes were not given special treatment.
- August 2004: Brig. Gen. David Wagle retires as faculty dean after the citizens panel criticized him but the Air Force cleared him. He is replaced by a female graduate, Col. Dana H. Born.
- September 2004: Pentagon names Air Force Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain to a newly created position as policy chief for matters related to sexual assaults.
- October 2004: Survey of cadets shows change in attitudes, with more willing to accept women. Pentagon confirms a military-civilian task force is reviewing how the Army and Navy academies handle sexual assault reports.
- November 2004: Air Force Secretary James Roche, passed over for Army secretary in part because of the academy sexual assault findings.
- December 2004: Pentagon inspector general says a series of academy commanders failed to recognize and deal with the sexual assault reports.

academy officials "could have and should have done many things better. But, remember, these people were wrestling with a national problem. The failure was that they really didn't recognize the magnitude of it."

Outside investigations have concluded the academy's culture created conditions that contributed to the problem. That included lingering resistance to having female cadets at all. Last year, a survey of cadets found 22 percent

did not believe women belonged at the academy, more than a quarter of a century after they were first admitted.

Last year, nearly 150 women came forward with accusations that they had been sexually assaulted by fellow cadets between 1993 and 2003. Many alleged they were punished for infractions such as drinking, ignored or ostracized by commanders for speaking out. Two cadets have been charged with sexual assault stemming from the investigation.

# New service creating 'online mall' for sailors

## Program will give deployed Navy personnel more control of purchases

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — The Navy Exchange Services Command has hired a consulting firm to revamp its online uniform store.

Virginia-based McFadyen Con-

sulting plans to launch a "Web store" that will sell uniforms online before June, company spokesman Juan Carlos Cole said. The new online uniform store will replace an older version that was launched in April, 2002.

The new system is designed to

give sailors more control over purchases and a sailor will be able to create his or her own account.

The technology will be similar to what the top retail stores such as Best Buy or Neiman Marcus use.

"It's extremely more personal-

ized to not only a specific individual ... but also a specific area," Cole said. "So people stationed in Rota are going to be treated a little different than, for example, people here in the [States]. All of that will be maintained in the system."

The service will allow sailors

to order merchandise, put it on hold and have it delivered to a specific address when they want it. For example, they could order an item while deployed on a ship and have it delivered a few days after they are scheduled to arrive home. Or, they could buy it the first week of December and request for it to be delivered a couple of days before Christmas.

"It's going to allow more flexibility in their purchases," Cole said.

Navy Exchange serves active-duty military personnel, retirees, reservists and their families on Navy bases worldwide. Profits from the stores are put into Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs.

The command has given \$2.2 billion back to such programs since it was created in 1946.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: [schonauers@mail.stripes.osd.mil](mailto:schonauers@mail.stripes.osd.mil)

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## Military gets party from developer in Maine

The Associated Press

SOUTH PORTLAND, Maine — The owner of one of Maine's largest commercial real estate firms will hold a holiday party for military families across the state, and it's not reserved for those recently returned from Iraq.

Joseph Boulos said everyone in the military and their families are invited, whether that be a spouse of a National Guard member who is now in Kuwait or a sailor who is expecting to have to leave Maine soon for destinations unknown.

He dubbed the event the "Next Greatest Generation Tribute."

"We just want to tell these people they're not alone," said Boulos, owner and chief executive officer of CB Richard Ellis/The Boulos Company in Portland.

A Marine pilot in Vietnam, Boulos said he didn't like the way soldiers were treated when they returned from that war.

"People are starting to call this a Vietnam. The least we can do is not treat these soldiers the way they were treated in the '60s," he said.

Boulos plans to transform a 50,000-square-foot retail building he owns with his brother into a venue for the party.

Boulos' effort has been warmly received by those involved with the military.

"It's just so nice. It's overwhelming," said Linda Newbigin, volunteer coordinator for the Maine National Guard. "We were kind of worried that [concerns] would die away a bit after the fellows were away for awhile, but it hasn't."

## IN THE STATES

## Senate leaders expect intel bill to pass easily

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate moved toward approval Wednesday of legislation transforming the United States' Cold War-era spy network into a more agile system aimed at preventing terrorist attacks like those on Sept. 11, 2001.

"We are rebuilding a structure that was designed for a different enemy at a different time, a structure that was designed for the Cold War and has not proved agile enough to deal with the threats of the 21st century," said Senate Governmental Affairs chairwoman Susan Collins.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman said, "For the first time in over half a century, we are going to modernize our national intelligence structure to meet the new challenges we face in today's world."

As debate in the Republi-

## Measure OK'd by House would overhaul intelligence gathering to system aimed at fighting terror networks



Lieberman

can-controlled Senate opened, the chambers leaders predicted the bill would easily pass. Said incoming Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada, "This vote is not close or controversial in any way."

The House passed the bill overwhelmingly on Tuesday, 336-75, after President Bush endorsed it and House Republicans satisfied themselves that the measure would not negatively affect the na-

tion's military.

The president "greatly looks forward to Senate passage and ultimately to signing the bill into law," White House spokesman Trent Duffy said late Tuesday as the president flew back to Washington from a visit with Marines at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The legislation would:

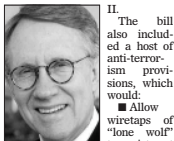
■ Create a new national intelligence director.

■ Establish a counterterrorism center.

■ Set priorities for intelligence gathering.

■ Tighten U.S. borders.

It would implement the biggest change to U.S. intelligence gathering and analysis since the creation of the CIA after World War



Reid

with groups or states.

■ Improve airline baggage screening procedures.

■ Increase the number of full-time border patrol agents by 2,000 a year for five years.

■ Impose new federal standards on information that driver's

licenses must contain.

The Sept. 11 commission, in its July report, said disharmony among the nation's 15 intelligence agencies contributed to the inability of government officials to stop the 2001 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people in New York City, at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania.

The new structure should help the agencies work together to prevent such disasters in the future, lawmakers said.

"This legislation is going to make a real difference to the security of our country," said Collins. Senators said Tuesday they were confident the bill would pass.

But because Congress had to hold a special session to get a final agreement, Wednesday's vote was expected to be extended to late in the day to accommodate senators rushing back to the Capitol from across the nation.

## Festival of Lights begins



LAS CRUCES (N.M.) SUN-NEWS/AP

Rabbi Gerald Kane lights the first candle on a menorah Tuesday with others at his house in Las Cruces, N.M. It was the first night of Hanukkah, the eight-day Jewish Festival of Lights that commemorates the rededication of the Temple by the Maccabees after their victory over the Syrians.

## Bush to sign spending bill

WASHINGTON — President Bush was poised Wednesday to sign a \$388 billion legislative package that covers the spending of every federal agency but the Pentagon and Department of Homeland Security.

The measure includes \$30.3 billion for veterans' health care programs, \$1.9 billion over last year and \$1.2 billion more than Bush wanted.

## Commuter van crash

LOS ANGELES — A commuter van from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory tumbled 200 feet off a mountain road Wednesday, killing at least three people, authorities said.

The van carrying 11 people, including a driver, plunged off Angeles Crest Highway in the Angeles National Forest and rolled down the mountainside, Los Angeles County Fire Department inspector Ron Haralson said.

## New breast cancer drug touted

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE  
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A newer drug clearly outperforms tamoxifen at preventing breast cancer from returning and should become the first-choice treatment for most women who have had the disease, doctors are reporting.

The drug, Arimidex, might be able to prevent 70 to 80 percent of the most common type of tumors that occur in women after menopause, compared to the 50 percent that tamoxifen is credited with warding off, their research suggests.

Women who took Arimidex for five years after they were treated for early-stage breast cancer were less likely to have cancer recur, develop in the other breast or spread throughout their bodies than women who took tamoxifen.

"Arimidex is a more effective treatment. This is a better drug," said Dr. Aman Buzdar, a specialist at the University of Texas' M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. He headed the U.S. portion of the study, which involved nearly 2,000 American women and an additional 7,300 from 20 other countries.

It was funded by Arimidex's

maker, AstraZeneca P.L.C. Results were reported Wednesday at a meeting in Texas of breast cancer experts and were published online by the British medical journal *The Lancet*.

Tamoxifen revolutionized breast cancer treatment when it came into use some three decades ago. It blunts the effects of estrogen, a hormone that promotes the growth of about three-fourths of the tumors that occur in postmenopausal women.

Arimidex, known generically as anastrozole, is one of three newer drugs called aromatase inhibitors, which prevent estrogen from being made in the first place.

## IBM sells off PC business

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — International Business Machines Corp. is selling a majority stake in its pioneering personal computer business to China's biggest computer maker, Lenovo Group Ltd., for \$1.75 billion in cash and stock.

The widely expected deal, one of the biggest Chinese overseas acquisitions ever, would make Lenovo the third-largest PC company in the world. IBM currently holds that spot.

The sale extends IBM's long-running transition from leader and innovator in computer

hardware to a dominant force in computer services, software and consulting.

About 9,500 IBM workers will become employees of the new company, doubling Lenovo's work force.

The stock IBM is receiving will give it an 18.9 percent stake in the merged company, which will have an estimated 8 percent share of the worldwide PC market. The combined PC revenue for the two companies in 2003 was \$12 billion.

Lenovo is China's biggest computer maker, as well as the biggest in Asia.

## Wire-transfer crackdown

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration wants U.S. money transfer businesses, such as Western Union, to take steps to make sure their overseas agents aren't vulnerable to terrorist financiers and money launderers.

The Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, known as FinCEN, issued guidance Wednesday aimed at addressing this potential weak spot.

From The Associated Press

## Tactics of the Crescent Moon

MILITANT MUSLIM CONSPIRACY THEODORE



THE LAST HANDED YEMER AUTHOR, H. JOHN POOLE

With *Tactics of the Crescent Moon*, U.S. forces could turn the tide in Iraq. From the author of *The Last Handed Yemeri*, it contains a detailed description of militant Muslim small-unit maneuvers and how to counter them. Maj. Gen. Ray L. "E-Tool" Smith USMC (Ret.) writes the foreword. Send \$14.95 plus \$4.00 s/h to Postscript Press, P.O. Box 5360, Emerald Isle, NC 28594; use your credit card 1-800-905-4334 or postscriptpress.org. PX's get their PMG.



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# Hubble repair may be costly and shaky

BY MARCIA DUNN  
The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA is bracing for a double volley of bad news regarding its tentative, experimental — and some would say wild — plan to send a robot to rescue the Hubble Space Telescope.

In the coming days, an aerospace research group expects to hand over a report that suggests that trying to save the famed space telescope with a robot would cost \$2 billion with just a 50-50 chance of success. And that thumbs-down is likely to be preceded by another potentially negative finding from the National Academy of Sciences, due to report on Wednesday.

Both reports could spell doom for the popular, aging Hubble, whose fans have lobbied heavily to get it repaired to prolong its life and continue its stream of stunning and revealing pictures from space.

NASA requested the reviews of the National Academy and the Aerospace Corp., a California-based nonprofit research group, in hopes that a robotic repair could be made.

An Aerospace Corp. summary

provided to the academy estimates a robotic Hubble mission would cost \$2 billion and take at least five years to be ready for launch. By then, there would be a less than 40 percent chance that Hubble still would be functioning.

Less than three years would be needed to launch a shuttle mission to Hubble, for no more money and with the usual medium risk of mission success, the company said.

The full 100-page report is expected to come out this week or next, a company spokesman said. In an interim report over the summer, a National Academy panel of scientists, aerospace experts and astronauts who have worked in orbit with Hubble urged NASA to keep its options open for one last service call by space shuttle astronauts. The panel did not rule out a robotic mission but noted its complexity and the technical challenges.

But NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe has stuck by his guns that regardless of what the academy or the Aerospace Corp. says, no people will risk their lives to fix Hubble.

On Wednesday, the National Academy of Sciences will issue its final report on the subject.



NASA/AP

Stunning images like this, of nebula N44F being inflated by a stellar wind, have won NASA's Hubble Space Telescope a devoted following. But trying to save the famed Hubble Space Telescope with a robot would cost \$2 billion with just a 50-50 chance of success, an aerospace research group reportedly will advise NASA.

"These reviews have tended to reinforce NASA's sense that although [a robotic mission] is feasible, it will be extremely challenging and will require very disciplined management," the space agency said in a statement Tuesday.

NASA will spend the coming year evaluating the robotic rescue plan and decide next summer whether to proceed. If nothing else, the space agency promises to launch a do-orbit tug to guide Hubble down over the ocean — and not over populated areas — well before it would tumble in on its own during the next decade.

Even in old age, Hubble has become the hottest of potatoes.

The space agency should be used to that by now, after years of suffering through the space telescope's blurry vision and then celebrating the greatest space repair job of all time and rejoicing in the most astounding pictures of the cosmos ever seen.

"NASA thinks of these things as their own and they forget not only who paid for it, but that NASA did such an incredibly good job of publicizing it and getting the information out, it's just been adopted as a telescope that an awful lot of people care about," said retired NASA scientist Stephen Maran. "Many people feel that the most important thing that the manned program did since the moon exploration is the repair and the servicing of the Hubble Space Telescope."

## N.Y. official seeks seat

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, whose white-collar crime investigations have sent a shudder through Wall Street, announced Tuesday he is running for governor in 2006.

The 45-year-old Democrat has long been known to be interested in the job, and the announcement only confirmed what some in the embattled financial industry have been bitterly suggesting for years — that he has his eye on higher office.

Republican Gov. George Pataki has not said whether he will seek a fourth, four-year term, though the state GOP chairman has said he expects the governor will run.

## Cruise line admits guilt

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A cruise ship company will plead guilty to discharging 20,000 gallons of untreated sewage from one of its ships while docked in Juneau harbor, the U.S. attorney's office said.

In addition to paying \$200,000 in fines and \$500,000 in restitution, Holland America Line Cruise Ships will spend \$1.3 million on a plan to prevent similar accidents.

The problem arose aboard the 1,258-passenger ship on Aug. 17, 2002, and was compounded when the crew ignored audible and visual alarms activated when a sewage tank approached maximum capacity.

From The Associated Press

Message for our men and women in uniform...

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# West gets 1 Grammy nod; Usher, Keys receive 8 each

BY ANTHONY BREZNICAN  
The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — The Grammys have gone autobiographical. Kanye West raps about sex, affairs and religion, his fears and his own greatness.

Usher steamed up the charts with songs about sex, affairs and breakups. Alicia Keys sang about aching for love, confiding secrets and imagining a different future for herself.

Their reward for the tell-all music — a collection of Grammy nominations Tuesday, 10 for West and eight each for Keys and Usher.

After last year's glossy pop, rap and rock led by OutKast's Grammy-winning "Hey Ya!," all three of these artists energized the charts this year by exposing deeply personal emotions, ideas, desires, flaws and insecurities.

"I think we all put a piece of ourselves, if not all of ourselves. I know I put every single inch — into my music, my songs, my production and everything. I think that's something that can be said for all three of us," Keys said.

Producer-turned-rapper West led all Grammy nominees and scored a bid for album of the year for his debut "The College Dropout," which stood out in the rap landscape because of its atypical prose.

It avoided the usual plot lines about sex, money and violence and touched on everything from his faith to his fears of failure and other crises from his life.

He also had a nomination for best new artist and shared a song-writing bid for song of the year with his religious hit "Jesus Walks."

The performer is known for bragging. In the press room at the recent American Music Awards, he claimed he was "definitely robbed" when he picked up no trophies.

Even his braggadocio style may mask his insecurities. "I'm scared of getting 10 nominations and losing. It's happened before," he said after helping announce the Grammy nominees at the Music Box Theatre in Hollywood.

West also was apologetic and regretful over the way he reacted at the AMAs last month. "I should have accepted that more gracefully. I'm really ashamed of the way I reacted to that situation."

Half of West's 10 nominations were in the rap field, including best rap album. He competes against himself in the best rap-song collaboration with the

songs "Slow Jamz," performed along with Twista and actor-singer Jamie Foxx, and "All Falls Down," which he performed with Syleena Johnson.

The eight respective nominations for Usher and Keys, who collaborated on the hit "My Boo," included album of the year for Keys' "The Diary of Alicia Keys" and Usher's "Confessions."

"I feel like: don't celebrate too early, definitely take it one step at a time," Usher said. "I recognize that this hard work did not go unnoticed. And if I do not win album of the year, which is the one I'm most interested in winning, then so be it."

Keys, whose 2001 debut album, "Songs In A Minor," won the R&B singer five Grammys, said this time through the awards process is even sweeter. "I've just been on a different level in terms of my experience. It's like, I've been able to just take things in and be almost on top of it as opposed to being underneath it swimming," she said.

Ray Charles, whose posthumous duets album, "Genius Loves Company," became the biggest-selling album of his long career, had seven nominations including album of the year and record of the year for "Here We Go Again," sung with Norah Jones.

Green Day garnered six bids for its hard-driving rock-punk album "American Idiot," which satirized culture, politics and apathy.

The group was nominated for record of the year and best rock song for the title track and best rock album.

Other record of the year contenders were the mellow lament "Heaven" by Los Lonely Boys, the jumpy party song "Let's Get It Started" by the Black Eyed Pears



Rapper Kanye West performs during the 44th annual BET Awards in Los Angeles on June 29. West received 10 nominations during the Grammy Awards nomination announcements Tuesday.

(which became a hit after changing to a more politically correct title than the original "Let's Get Retarded") and becoming a National Basketball Association anthem) and Usher's massive hit "Yeah!"

The best new artist class spanned soul, rap, country and pop, with nominees Gretchen Wilson, country's self-proclaimed "Redneck Woman," rapper West, young soul songstress Joss Stone, Los Lonely Boys and Maroon 5. Bids for song of the year — which goes to songwriters — went to "Daughters," written and recorded by John Mayer, "If I Ain't Got You," written and recorded by Keys, "Jesus Walks," recorded and co-written by West, "Live Like You Were Dying," recorded by Tim McGraw, and "The Reason," recorded by Hoobastank.

The Grammys will be given out Feb. 13 in Los Angeles during a broadcast on CBS.

## After 42 years, NASA's first space shuttle leader to retire

The Associated Press

**HOUSTON, Texas** — The long-serving astronaut in history, who flew twice to the moon and commanded the first space shuttle mission, has announced his retirement after 42 years at NASA.

John W. Young, 74, announced Tuesday his plans to leave the space agency on Dec. 31.

Young was the first human to fly in space six times and the only astronaut to pilot four different spacecraft.

He flew in the Gemini, Apollo and space shuttle programs.

"John's tenacity and dedication are matched only by his humility," said NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe.

"He's never sought fame and often goes out of his way to avoid the limelight."

Young joined NASA in 1962. His first mission was in 1965 as a pilot of the first manned flight of the Gemini program. He went on to command the Gemini 10 in 1966, followed by his orbit of the moon in the Apollo Command Module in 1969.

Young went back to the moon in 1972, when he and another astronaut collected more than 200 pounds of lunar samples.

In 1981, Young commanded Columbia during the first space shuttle mission. His final space mission came in 1983, when he again commanded Columbia.

"He is the astronaut's astronaut, a hero among heroes who fly in space," said Jefferson D. Howell Jr., director of the Johnson Space Center, where Young was an associate director for eight years.

Young

## Teen wins U.S. Chess Championship

**SAN DIEGO** — A 16-year-old boy has won the U.S. Chess Championship, making him the youngest player to claim the title since 14-year-old Bobby Fischer won it in 1958. Hikaru Nakamura of White Plains, N.Y., won the \$25,000 prize Monday after beating Alex Stripunsky, 34, of Rego Park, N.Y., in two overtime matches. The 11-day tournament in began with a field of 65 competitors.

Nakamura, who was born in Japan, was taught chess by his stepfather and began playing competitively at age 7. A little more than two years later, he qualified as an American master. Nakamura became an American grandmaster last year, eclipsing by a few months Fischer's record of attaining grand-

master status at age 15.

## Gates grants for college high schools

**SEATTLE** — Nearly \$30 million in grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will be used to expand a national network of early college high schools, intended to provide a fast track to college for underserved young people, the foundation said Tuesday.

The schools, working with a university or college, stress rigorous curricula in seeking to increase high-school graduation rates and college readiness for minority youth, according to the foundation. Students can earn a high school diploma and two years of college credit or an associate's degree.

From The Associated Press

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# OMBUDSMAN

balance, Stripes had successful campaign

**S**ince July I have been reading and clipping all stories from Stars and Stripes about the Nov. 2 election in the United States. Last week I organized them by categories and reread them and made notes for this column.

The goal was to look at campaign coverage after the rhetoric was over and critique four aspects:

2. How well were the "surprise stories" of the campaign — President Bush's National Guard records and Sen. John Kerry's service in the Vietnam?

3. How much and how well was information provided to help the voters understand the issues and the positions of the candidates?

4. How well did Stripes do in urging voting by personnel serving overseas?

Stripes' core mission is to provide to our military personnel serving overseas the information they need so they can function as citizens and voters in our democratic society. Since most of the election news is in the States and most of Stripes' reporting staff is overseas, Stripes relied on The Associated Press and supplemental wire services operated by newspapers for nearly all of the coverage of the campaign. So judgments on Stripes' fairness and objectivity involve looking on the amount, the selection, the editing and the presentation of campaign news.

After the second reading, I pondered how to describe the performance of the editors. The words that kept coming to mind were: professional, consistent and credible.

Professional in that there was absolutely no evidence of editing decisions being made to favor one party or one candidate.

Consistent in that there was balance in terms of the stories covering speeches, events, etc., with background information on issues and analysis.

Credible in that there was balance in presentation, both on Page 1 and on inside pages, with news judgment being used — and not robotic editing in which each candidate receives the same-size headline or length of story.

However, in total there needs to be equality in volume and presentation, and there was.

Every presidential campaign has a surprise story. They are the hardest to cover. This year there were two. The first in timing was the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth and the only complaint about coverage I received was about one aspect of the coverage of that group.

A member of the U.S. Army wrote in August: "I am writing because I believe Stars and Stripes has failed to provide its readers with all the facts surrounding the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth. I have read numerous articles discussing this organization in your paper over the past couple of weeks. In none of these articles does Stars and Stripes mention the substantial membership (250+) and how many of these members actually served in combat with John Kerry. This fact is critical when their stories are consistently countered with the versions presented by Kerry and his very small Band of Brothers."

At that time I went back to my file and couldn't find in Stripes (or any other of six other daily papers I was reading) information on the number of Swift Boat veterans involved in the organization and their role in Vietnam. I pointed this out to the editorial director of Stripes and he said he would have his staff look for a story with details on the background of the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth and publish it. Stripes did publish an analysis piece by David Espo of The Associated Press titled "What did you do in the war, candidate? Vietnam-era actions hang over campaigns as Kerry comes under at-



Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., joins Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., before the start of Kerry's concession speech Wednesday in Boston's Faneuil Hall.

tack.”

But it didn't mention the size and scope of the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth organization and no wire service stories then came across the desk at Stripes to provide such a number. By mid-September, the issue had died as far as the U.S. press was concerned.

The second "surprise story" of the campaign was about President Bush's service in the National Guard, which most journalists thought had been well gone over in the presidential campaign of 2000. The 2004 version broke in early September on "60 Minutes Wednesday." The story was about a National Guard memo that said "Bush refused an order."

A story in *Stripes* on Sept. 23 (Sept. 24 for Pacific editions) by David Bauder of The Associated Press stated: "CBS News admitted on Monday that it could not authenticate documents it had used in a '60 Minutes' story that questioned Bush's service in the Guard during the the Vietnam War era. Many critics consider the documents fake."

CBS News has appointed former Attorney

General Dick Thornburgh and former Associated Press chief executive Louis Boccardi to investigate what went wrong with the story. A report is due soon.

There are lessons for both the media and public from this year's "surprise stories." The media need to triple-check sudden accusations in a heated political campaign before publication. The public must be wary of details until they are verified because it is so easy for rumors, opinion, hearsay to become "facts" by wide distribution on the Web and cable news broadcasts.

Twenty-four-hour cable news has become both a benefit and a cross for close followers of the news. A story often receives "breaking news" play in one newscast and then disappears. One week in the spring, I did a test on this issue. I kept track for five days of such "breaking news." Six out of 14 items never made print in any of the six daily newspapers I was reading.

For Stripes next time around (2008), I think it would be a significant help for its

readers if Stripes designates a writer/editor in the Washington office to follow such stories and, when the issue flames out, do a wrap-up that summarizes all of the verifiable facts and puts the story in perspective. This will be a service especially to those who have been paying special attention to that story, but also for those who have seen just some of the news stories on that issue.

In the age of 24-hour cable, the print media, in my opinion, will need to cope with these types of news situations much more often in order to give its readers the feeling that the paper is on top of the news. The best way to do that is through explanatory summary stories.

Stripes' handling of the third issue I examined — providing information to help the voters understand the issues and the positions of the candidates — was outstanding. Over the course of the campaign, Stripes published 18 "On the Issues" questions provided by The Associated Press with pictures and quotes from each presidential candidate in about 8 to 10 inches of space. The questions ranged from "Can the U.S. government achieve a balanced budget this next decade?" to "Do you support a draft law for men?" to "Do you support 'should be equivalent' to tell parents before having an abortion?" to "Under what conditions is the United States justified in taking pre-emptive military action against targets in another country?"

In addition, Stripes provided a package of information on Sept. 21 for Pacific editions with this principal headline on Page 1: "All you need to vote."

Below it were these two phrases (preceded by black boxes to attract the reader's eye): "Where Bush and Kerry stand on issues facing America" and "Complete state-by-state guide to candidates and initiatives."

The front-page announcement was a bit different for the Sept. 21 Europe and Mid-east editions ("State-by-state election guide inside"), but readers in those theaters got the same content inside.

The timing was early in the campaign because of the need of military personnel to send off absentee ballots.

On the fourth issue of getting out the vote, I counted a dozen stories that discussed, explained and urged military personnel to vote. The editors showed thought and effort in a nonpartisan way to encourage voting.

One last observation: Stripes wrapped up its campaign coverage with an excellent section on the day after the vote. It provided information on the votes for all key offices as well as a state-by-state roundup. In my career, that was one of my favorite projects, so I can appreciate the effort that Stripes put into making the section so complete.

Send comments to Joe Ungaro at: Ombudsman, Stars and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, D.C. 20045-1301. Phone civilian +1(401) 364-6032; fax +1(401) 364-8696; or e-mail ombudsman@stripes.osd.mil

## Mallard Fillmore

LEAVE LIGHTS ON WHEN GONE, TO DETER THIEVES...

AND AVOID LEAVING CANS OF CREAM MUSHROOM SOUP UNATTENDED

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...WHERE  
THEY CAN BE  
THOUGHTLESSLY  
TURNED INTO  
BLAND,  
INSIPID  
CASSEROLES.

Tinkley, 1994

## IN THE WORLD

## Karzai to tackle Afghan drug production

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan President Hamid Karzai plans to address tribal leaders Thursday on the need to eliminate this war-ravaged country's booming drug trade, an aide said.

Karzai was sworn in Tuesday as Afghanistan's first popularly elected leader. Vice President Dick Cheney, the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban three years ago, was among the 600 guests.

It "was one of the most historical days for Afghanistan and its people," presidential spokesman Khaleel Ahmad said Wednesday.

Karzai has yet not announced his Cabinet but was working on it, Ahmad said. He said the government was also busy arranging a counter-narcotics conference.

Hundreds of elders were expected to gather in the capital on Thursday to discuss plans for an American-sponsored crackdown on narcotics, underlining the issue's priority.

Afghan and U.S. officials have only recently begun to heed U.N.

warnings that the skyrocketing cultivation of opium poppies is producing drug gangs that could soon have an unshakable grip on the country.

In his inaugural speech, Karzai listed the fight against narcotics second to the need to bring security to a country still plagued by insurgents, and warned of a dangerous nexus between terrorism and drug trafficking.

"The relationship between terrorism and narcotics ... are a source of continued concern," he said. "A decisive victory over terrorism requires serious and con-

tinued cooperation at regional and international levels."

Karzai has yet to formally announce the details of his new anti-drug policy, but Western officials working on the plans say it will include stepped-up destruction of opium poppy crops and hundreds of millions of dollars to help farmers switch to legal alternatives.

Britain and the United States are also training Afghan forces to smash labs that process opium into heroin — Afghanistan is already the world's top supplier — and to arrest top smugglers for trial in special courts to be established within months.



President Hamid Karzai

## Appeals process starts for 6 in Cole bombing

BY AHMED AL-HAJ

The Associated Press

SAN'A, Yemen — The appeals trial of six men convicted in the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole opened Wednesday with prosecutors demanding the execution of two defendants who escaped the death penalty.

The first convictions in the al-Qaida attack that killed 17 American sailors were handed down in September, with four Ye-

menis sentenced to five to 10 years in prison. Two men — Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, a Saudi suspected of being an associate of Osama bin Laden, and Yemeni militant Jamal al-Badawi — were sentenced to death. Al-Badawi, interrupting proceedings from behind bars in the courtroom dock, shouted to Judge Saeed al-Qattaa that the proceedings were a sham.

Prosecutors said defendants Fahd al-Qasaa and Maamoun al-Msoua, who were sentenced to 10 and eight years re-

spectively, should be executed because their collaboration in planning the attack has been proven. The prosecution added that Yemeni law stipulates that any crime that results in a death is punishable by death.

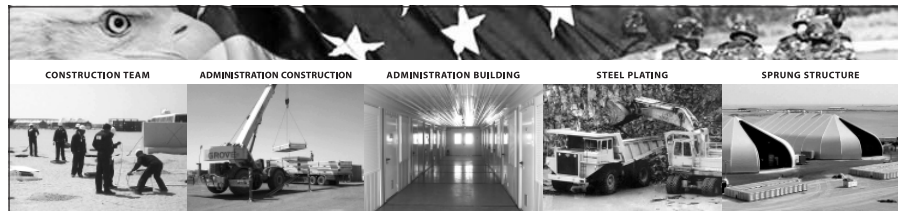
Al-Nashiri, who is believed to have masterminded the Cole attack and also thought to have directed the 1998 bombings at the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, was the only defendant not present during the trial. He is in U.S. custody at an undisclosed location.

## Romanians want Marine

BUCHAREST, Romania — Dozens of protesters rallied Wednesday in front of the U.S. Embassy, calling on American authorities to send back to Romania a U.S. Marine who was allegedly involved in a car accident that killed a Romanian rock star.

The Marine, who worked as a guard at the embassy and has diplomatic immunity from prosecution, left the country immediately after the accident Saturday. Teofil Peter, a 50-year-old bass player with the popular Romanian rock band Compact, died in the crash after his taxi was hit by an embassy car allegedly driven by the Marine.

From wire reports



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## 24 hurt in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India — A grenade attack wounded at least 23 civilians and one policeman in Indian-controlled Kashmir on Wednesday, the same day that India's president was visiting another part of the insurgency-wracked Himalayan region.

Suspected Islamic militants hurled a grenade at a bus station in the town of Anantnag, apparently trying to hit a moving police vehicle, a local police officer said on condition of anonymity. But the grenade exploded on the street wounding 23 civilians, four seriously, he said.

A policeman also was hurt, but his condition was not immediately clear.

## Pakistan tests missile

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan test-fired a short-range nuclear-capable missile Wednesday, the second in just over a week despite a thaw in relations with neighboring India, military officials said.

Pakistan said it had notified its neighbors it would test a Shaheen, a missile with a 435-mile range, and insisted the test would not affect ongoing talks with India.

New Delhi had no immediate comment.

## Assault sparks riot

BEIJING — Bystanders in southern China attacked government officers who assaulted four disabled street musicians, a local official and a U.S.-based broadcaster said, the latest in a recent string of violent mob incidents in the country's poor hinterland.

Radio Free Asia said Tuesday some officers were hurt in the city of Qinzhou, in the Guangxi region, quoting eyewitnesses as saying hundreds of people were involved in the incident.

City officials confirmed the clash but gave few details.

RFA said trouble started on Saturday evening when four officers from Qinzhou's construction inspection team told the buskers to leave.

One of the musicians, a 22-year-old man surnamed Chen, said he and two of his companions were crippled, while the fourth was blind.

From wire reports

# Top Saudi cleric condemns attack on U.S. Consulate as 'grand sins'

BY DONNA ABU-NASR

The Associated Press

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi Arabia's highest religious authority on Wednesday condemned the shooting rampage that killed five people at a U.S. consulate as a great sin, and Saudi newspapers reported one of the dead assailants was a fired employee of the nation's religious police.

The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh and a consular office in eastern Saudi Arabia reopened Wednesday, two days after militants stormed into the inner courtyard of the U.S. Consulate in the port city of Jiddah, firing their guns, grabbing human shields and killing five people. U.S. officials warned more attacks were possible, and the injured spoke of assailants opening fire and hunting for victims with shouts of "Where are the Americans?"

Grand Mufti Abdul-Aziz al-Sheikh said in a statement Wednesday that anyone who enters the kingdom with the permission of its leaders has a promise of security and should not be attacked.

"What happened on Monday regarding the storming of the U.S.

Consulate in Jiddah, using weapons and explosives, killing innocent souls, petrifying secure ones, and undermining security in the kingdom are all forbidden acts and grand sins," al-Sheikh said.

The Saudi daily newspaper Al-Watan, meanwhile, quoted a cousin of one of the gunmen ultimately killed in the assault as having been fired for misconduct from a job in Medina, Islam's second holiest city, with the Committee for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice. The group, less formally known as religious police, patrols Saudi cities for signs of religious misconduct — such as a slipping veil or any mixing of unrelated men and women.

Said Mohammed al-Sumeiri told Al-Watan daily that his cousin, Fayez bin Awad al-Juhaini, a 28-year-old school dropout, was fired for his "bad behavior." It did not say what his job was, when he worked there or when or why he was fired.

Calls to the group's main office in Riyadh went unanswered Wednesday.

According to the newspaper report, al-Sumeiri said al-Juhaini had been arrested eight months



Saudi Prince of Mecca, Abdul Majid bin Abdul Aziz, left, visits wounded Yemeni worker Mowafiq Al-Juhani at the King Fahd hospital in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, on Monday, following a terrorist attack on the U.S. Consulate in Jiddah that left five people dead.

ago before being released to his brother's custody.

Okaz daily newspaper, known for its close contact with the Saudi Interior Ministry, quoted an unidentified security official as saying al-Juhaini had been arrested before for his "extremist ideas."

Okaz also reported he was believed to be the leader of the Jiddah attack and had supervised a terror cell in the Red Sea port city.

## NATO ministers to hold talks with Arabs, Israelis

BY PAUL AMES

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell on Wednesday welcomed NATO efforts to intensify cooperation with friendly nations in North Africa and the Middle East as a sign the alliance is reaching out to face new post-Cold War challenges.

"NATO's role today goes beyond Europe," Powell said ahead of unprecedented ministerial talks between the 26 alliance members and

their counterparts from Israel and six Arab countries.

"The nations of the broader Middle East and north Africa need our assistance and we should be ready," Powell said in speech to diplomats and students in the Belgian capital.

The gathering of foreign ministers Wednesday evening is the latest in a series of firsts for the alliance as it seeks to build ties with countries on its volatile southern and southeastern flank.

Last month, military chiefs from Israel, Jordan,

Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania met with top brass from the NATO allies and agreed to increase intelligence on terrorist threats.

Then NATO's Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer paid a visit to Algeria, the first by the alliance's top diplomat to any of the seven countries in NATO's decade-old "Mediterranean dialogue."

In Algiers, de Hoop Scheffer hailed "the beginning of a new dynamic in relations between NATO and the countries of the Mediterranean."

LOOK FOR  
HOLIDAY GREETINGS  
FROM FOLKS BACK HOME

in your December 16th  
STARS AND STRIPES Middle East edition

STARS AND STRIPES  
Your Hometown Newspaper



## Gay policy rethought

**UT** WEST JORDAN — A principal who wants gay couples to get permission slips from their parents before they can attend school dances promised to re-evaluate the policy after protesters held four days of protests.

Copper Hills High School Principal Tom Worton issued the policy last month but agreed to revisit it. He said he saw the policy as a way to alert the parents to the dangers their children might face.

Worton said the policy stemmed from students' concerns about potential harassment.

Worton said he will make a decision on the policy in time for the prom.

## Fatal mining accident

**NV** ELY — Two men doing maintenance work on the shovel of a large excavator were killed when the shovel's lid fell and crushed them at an open-pit copper mine near this remote east-central Nevada town.

The owner of the Robinson Mine, Quadra Mining Ltd., and the workers' employer, Washington Group International, released no further details. The victims' names were not released.

"This is a close-knit community and something like this takes the heart out of everybody," said Martin Sorenson, chief of the Ruth Volunter Fire Department.

The accident is under investigation by the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration.

## Taser death

**LA** METAIRIE — A man shot twice with a stun gun died, a day after he was pulled over for driving erratically, officials said.

Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office spokesman John Fortunato said Patrick Fleming died at a hospital. Officers had used a Taser stun gun on him twice when he fought with them — once after the traffic stop and then later at the jail.

Fortunato said Fleming, 35, was hospitalized after officers zapped him a second time when his breathing became labored.

A records check found that Fleming was wanted on a charge of criminal neglect of family. Fleming also had a history of resisting arrest and arrests for possession of cocaine leaves, crack cocaine and marijuana.

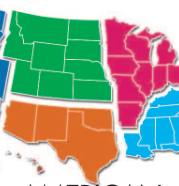
## Mandatory history?

**AK** ANCHORAGE — The state Board of Education will decide this week whether to require high school students to take a course in Alaska history before graduating. The Anchorage School District already requires its students take a state history course, while other districts offer some form of the class as an elective.

## Teacher charged

**MI** SOUTH HAVEN — A teacher and a 14-year-old former female student whom she is accused of sexually assaulting participated in witchcraft together and even "wed" in a pagan ritual, police said.

Elizabeth Mikosovic, 36, a teacher at South Haven's Baseline Middle School, was arraigned on a



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

charge of first-degree criminal sexual conduct.

If convicted, Mikosovic faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Mikosovic, a seventh-grade language arts teacher, lives with another woman and their adopted son, authorities said. She was placed on leave from her job.

## New town plan

**AZ** CASA GRANDE — A citizens group is proposing creation of Chisholm, a new city that would include hundreds of square miles of now-unincorporated areas of western Pinal County. Supporters say the new city is needed to help regulate and plan for growth as new housing developments are built, many for people working in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

## No more arguing

**NJ** TRENTON — Lawyers and federal judges in New Jersey are preparing to argue over new rules that would largely outlaw — arguing.

The rules would apply to civil cases, where some judges of the U.S. District Court of New Jersey think the verbal exchanges are a waste of time.

If the changes are adopted, judges would not schedule argument days to debate motions, and the word "argument" could even be de-



## Here fishy, fishy

Mitch Simpson, a fisheries biologist with the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, hoists a salmon out of the Veezie Dam salmon trap on the Penobscot River.

leted from the rules. Instead, lawyers would be required to have a hearing request accepted by a judge.

Lawyers say it would set a perilous precedent. All district judges will vote on the rules changes, with a majority needed for ratification. A vote has not yet been scheduled.

## Plane's water landing

**FL** AVENTURA — The crew of a decades-old cargo plane put the aircraft down in a lake in a Miami suburb after it developed engine trouble, avoiding high-rise buildings in the densely populated area, then were rescued from the floating fuselage.

The Miami Air Lease plane — with the misspelled message "Elect George W. Bush" running the length of the fuselage — had trouble with one of its two engines shortly after takeoff, said company officer manager Alina Nodarse.

The pilots tried to return the Convair CV-340 to the Opa-locka airport about seven miles away but couldn't make it and splashed down in Maule Lake, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Chris White.

Crews surrounded the plane with an inflatable dote to contain any leaking oil. Trapped air kept the plane afloat and emergency crews planned to use air bags for additional buoyancy.

## Flu shot 'fund-raiser'

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — A woman who allegedly sold flu shots then fled when her credentials were questioned was giving people the real vaccine, and was trying to raise money for her daughter's school fund-raiser, her ex-husband said.

Michelle Lynn Torgerson, 33, was arrested on suspicion of theft and drug possession, said police Capt. Rich Stanek.

Chad Torgerson told the St. Paul Pioneer Press that faculty and students at Augsburg College in Minneapolis paid his ex-wife \$20 each for flu shots. He said she used the proceeds for an American Heart Association fund-raising drive at their 9-year-old daughter's school.

## Repair shop explodes

**WV** MATTHIAS — A natural gas line to an automobile repair shop exploded, leveling the building, shattering windows for miles and sending as many as five people to hospitals.

No deaths were reported. The identities and conditions of the injured were unavailable. Although officials don't know what caused the explosion, they said a gas line feeding the shop had been leaking.

Part of State Route 259 remained closed and several hundred residents who live within a one-mile radius of the shop remained evacuated the next day, said Paul Lewis, Hardy County's emergency services director.

Temporary shelters were set up at the northeast community's high school and middle school. Telephone service to the area was knocked out by the blast.

"It was a pretty wicked explosion," said Thomas VanMeter, who had finished making a delivery to the auto shop moments before the blast. "There had been a gun shop upstairs over the garage, and I could hear the bullets going off."



## Scare tactics

Curtis Sharp, 8, tries to scare a duck into the water at a park in Lubbock, Texas.



## Move those feet

From left to right, Brenner Fontenille, Craig Martin and Solon Spruce perform during the Iroquois Social Dance Participatory Program at the Native American Winter Festival in Brighton, N.Y.



## Baby Claus

Four-month-old Monae Fickens, dressed in a toddler Santa suit, is held by her mother, Ashia Fraser, as Tony "The Peanut Man" Wright sings a song to sell peanuts during the 24th annual Charleston Christmas Parade in Charleston, S.C.





**Woman overboard!** Kristin McEnroe, 13, of Duluth, Minn., leaps off the plank during the National Walk-the-Plank Championship staged in Key West, Fla. The event was the last in a 10-day Pirates in Paradise festival that also included a sea battle featuring Key West's historic tall ships, buccaneers' living history encampments and the re-enactment of an 18th-century pirate trial.



**Pampered pooches** Jean Jameson grooms Lexy, a Shih Tzu owned by Eileen Nichols of Mahwah, N.J., during The Bay Colony Cluster Dog Show in Boston, as another Shih Tzu named Callie, owned by Jennifer Miller of Wrentham, N.J., looks on at left.



**Yay, pretty colors** Sitting on the roof of a Battle Creek restaurant, Sponge Bob Squarepants seems excited watching balloons fly over during the 6th annual Holiday Balloonfest in Battle Creek, Mich.



**Fake explosion a blast to see** Congress Street in Tucson, Ariz., is set ablaze with an explosion during the filming of Stephen King's miniseries "Desperation" as hundreds gather to watch and feel the blast.

## Jury spares man's life

**KS** KANSAS CITY — A jury recommended a life sentence for a man convicted of killing five people in retaliation for the robbery and beating of his mother, sparing him the death penalty.

The same jury convicted Darrell Stallings two weeks before on five counts of capital murder and other charges in the June 2002 shooting rampage. Prosecutors said none of the victims was involved in the attack on Stallings' mother.

Stallings, 34, who is scheduled for sentencing in January, apologized to the families of each victim.

"I am truly sorrowful for the pain and related tribulations I have caused you all," he said. He said he had no excuses for the crimes, but was confused and delusional because of the attack on his mother two months earlier.

Another man, Errik Harris, 28, is also charged in the deaths, but his trial date has not been set.

## Costco theft charges

**NH** NASHUA — An 18-year-old Massachusetts man faces felony theft charges for allegedly emptying several large cereal boxes at a Costco, filling the boxes with electronic equipment and paying the clerk only for the cereal.

Nashua police arrested Christopher Boozie of Dracut after he and a juvenile were detained by store security.

Police said Boozie left the store with a digital camera, GPS system and a computer hard drive worth \$800 inside the resealed cereal boxes.

## School renovations

**VA** EMPORIA — A group of Emporia citizens has raised about \$20,000 to renovate a former segregated school for blacks. Citizens United to Preserve the Greensville Training School has received approval of preliminary plans for the school. The group is working with a class of architecture students from the University of Virginia. It hopes the county will donate the school and five acres around it.

## Bladder patrol

**PA** PITTSBURGH — Officers Matt Turko and Tom Weger are on Pittsburgh's bladder beat.

Since November 2003, Turko and Weger have patrolled the city's South Side, one of the country's oldest Victorian-era shopping districts in the country by day — but one of the city's best places to drink at night. They bust bladder-heavy revelers looking for relief in alleys, the sides of houses and in dark corners.

Turko and Weger have handed out more than 220 citations for public indecency. Emptying your bladder in the wrong place can also empty your wallet. Each ticket comes with a \$300 fine.

## Chancellor resigns

**MO** KANSAS CITY — The chancellor of the University of Missouri-Kansas City resigned after clashing with faculty over such issues as a \$500,000 consulting fee she paid to a friend.

Martha Gilliland, 60, said she was stepping down so the school

can "move forward and achieve great progress without distraction." She will keep her tenured position as a professor in the university's school of engineering.

Last month, faculty groups in arts and sciences, law, business and biology cast no-confidence votes in Gilliland, who took the post four years ago.

## D.C. mayor heads league

**DC** WASHINGTON — Washington Mayor Anthony Williams won election as president of the National League of Cities, becoming the first D.C. mayor to assume the top post in a national organization of municipal officials.

The league counts more than 18,000 cities and towns among its members and lobbies for their interests on Capitol Hill and throughout the federal government.

At his swearing-in, Williams promised to pursue "an advocacy agenda" focused on homeland security, education, public safety and affordable housing.

## Concerns cancel tour

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — The Mormon Tabernacle Choir has canceled its planned tour of northern Europe next year because of concerns about terrorism, and the choir will instead tour the Northwest.

The 360-voice choir was scheduled to make a summer tour by ship of Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland.

However, Gordon B. Hinckley, president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, decided the trip would make the group an easy target for terrorists.

The tour was first changed to England, Scotland and Wales, with a stopover in Paris. But that, too, was deemed too dangerous and now the choir will visit cities in northern California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada and Idaho.

## Living at work

**OR** HAILEY — Some workers seem to live at the office, but the principal at Central Linn High School really does.

Michael Bremont, 31, routinely spends 80 hours a week on the job, arriving well before school starts each morning and leaving long after the final bell.

Frustrated by how little he was seeing his family, Bremont approached his district superintendent last year with an unusual request. He wanted to live in an unused building on campus.

District officials loved the idea and spent \$2,000 renovating the place. Bremont pays \$500 a month in rent, plus his electricity costs, so the district has made back what it spent.

"It's been really wonderful," he said.

## Union strike averted

**CT** HARTFORD — Members of the machinists' union at jet-engine maker Pratt & Whitney voted overwhelmingly against going on strike. Under the negotiating rules, rejection of a strike means the latest three-year contract proposal takes effect. It includes a 3.5 percent raise in the first year and 3 percent raises in the second and third years as well as a \$1,500 signing bonus per worker.

Stories and photos from wire services

# FACES

## Hate threats don't deter actress

**Idina Menzel**, star of the Broadway musical "Wicked," and her husband, actor **Taye Diggs**, have received hateful threats because of their interracial marriage.

The couple was the focus of at least three letters last week in which bodily harm was threatened, the New York Post reported in Monday editions.

Despite the threats, Menzel still performed on Sunday, arriving at the Gershwin Theater under heavy guard. For the matinee, she was accompanied by five plainclothes guards, who remained stationed outside the stage door.

## Rapper wants to stand out in Hollywood

**David Banner** doesn't want to be just another rapper who strolls into movies, so the Mississippi rhymist has been spending the past few months in Los Angeles, studying acting in preparation for a movie career.

"I'm studying this form of talent," Banner said. "I've had opportunities to be in several major movies, but I don't want to just jump in."

Banner says he's always been interested in an acting career, but growing up, he never knew how to get involved in it.

"Those opportunities are not readily available, coming from urban situations where you don't know much," he said.

Banner says he's learned a lot in his studies — and he's able to translate it to everyday life. "Acting actually teaches you to be more patient with society... As an actor, you're able to break down the psyche of people."

## Price is right for animal welfare

Game show host **Bob Barker**, a longtime proponent of animal welfare, has donated \$1 million to Duke Law School to endow a program to teach animal rights law, the school announced Tuesday.

The **Bob Barker Endowment Fund for the Study of Animal Rights Law** will support education in animal rights law, including opportunities for students to earn course credit on cases involving compliance with state animal cruelty laws and other forms of animal rights advocacy.

"It's similar to funds Barker has established in the past few years at law schools including those at Harvard, Stanford, Columbia and UCLA."

"Animals need all the protection we can give them," Barker said. "We intend to train a growing number of law students in this area of the law in what he feels they will ultimately lead a national effort to make it illegal to brutalize and exploit these helpless creatures."

## Gilligan brings smiles with island of toys

Gilligan turned into Santa's helper when former television star **Bob Denver** and his wife joined a Princeton, W.Va., car dealership's toy campaign.

"I think it's all been fantastic. It has only been 45 minutes, and we're already done really well," Denver said during Saturday's event, which transformed Ramsey Raley's lot into an island of toys.

"We normally do this in a smaller way, but we wanted to go all out this year. When I was growing up, I was underprivileged myself, and I didn't get a lot of toys at Christmas, so this is really important to me," said Jim Ramsey Sr., owner of Ramsey Automotive Group.

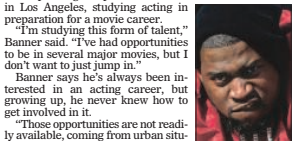
Denver, star of the 1960s TV show "Gilligan's Island," and his wife, Dreama, donated a pickup truck full of toys and a \$1,000 check to the Princeton Quota Club. The couple lives in the area.

All the toys will go to the Marine Corps League's Toys for Toys campaign. The organization recently received \$1,300 worth of toys from Toys-R-Us in Roanoke, Va., and a bakery donated \$2,000 worth of toys.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



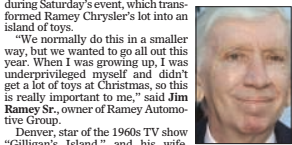
Diggs, left, and Menzel



Banner



Barker



Denver

**Christina Aguilera** performs during the **Grammy Awards** in Los Angeles in February.

In late April, Aguilera canceled her entire 28-city tour due to "strained vocal cords." The cancellation broke **FansRule**, the company that ran Aguilera's fan club, leaving it unable to refund tickets.

AP

## Bankrupt club costs concert goers big money

BY JAKE COYLE

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Many artists hire outside companies to run their fan clubs, but one club designed to bring fans closer to their idols ended up dividing them.

Last June, 13-year-old Sophia Lief was all set to go to her first concert to see her absolute favorite: Christina Aguilera.

Sophia's mother, Janet Crane, wanted to be assured of getting good tickets. So she joined Aguilera's official fan club, paying the \$35 membership fee that offered access to seats in the first 20 rows. She bought three tickets, totaling around \$375.

In late April, however, Aguilera canceled her entire 28-city tour due to "strained vocal cords." Naturally, Sophia's mother looked for a refund — except there was none, for her or hundreds of other Aguilera fans.

Aguilera had hired a company called **FansRule** to run her Web site and fan club. But as it was taking money to run Aguilera's fan club, "it is in no way the fault of Christina Aguilera."

**FansRule** still owes about \$320,000 to Aguilera fans, trustee Joe Baldiga says. "The inability to refund payments made for tickets," Baldiga said on Aguilera's Web site, "is in no way the fault of Christina Aguilera."

Sophia doesn't agree. "Her fans aren't going to follow her through the years if she treats us like this and doesn't even make up the [canceled] concerts," she said.

Said Crane: "I don't really know how the music business works, but she is responsible if she hired [FansRule]. We paid money on good faith." She recently obtained reimbursement from her credit card company, six months after the fact.

**FansRule** also ran clubs for Aerosmith. After the band postponed three concerts in June, many ticketbuyers went without refunds. One fan, Ginny Robertson, posted a Web page telling FansRule to kiss a certain part of her body.

"I will continue to be a fan, but I am extremely disappointed and disillusioned at the way [they] have sold us out for a quick buck," she wrote. "I never would have believed it possible for them to become like this!"

It has become regular practice for music acts to outsource their fan clubs to companies that run their Web sites, sell high-price VIP concert tickets and offer an assortment of perks for paying members. But how did the fans of international stars like Aguilera and Aerosmith end up left out in the cold — and for a summer tour, no less? Like many things, the answer begins with none other than the Grateful Dead. Decades ago, the Dead pioneered the idea of a club offering direct ticketing to their biggest fans. Back then, as much as 50 percent of tickets were made available directly to Deadheads. Now Ticketmaster caps seats available to fan clubs at closer to 10 percent.

The business dramatically changed, though, in the '90s with the Dave Matthews Band. Manager Connor Capshaw saw a connection with fan clubs and the then-emerging In-

# When fan clubs go sour

ternet, which offered new ways for bands to connect with their fans beyond the traditional newsletter. "Fan clubs had been a neglected or stepchild of the business," says Capshaw, now the CEO of MusicToday, one of the largest fan service businesses. For example, one MusicToday's acts, The Rolling Stones, offer two types of memberships. For \$65, a fan gets a one-year membership, full access to the member-only on-line fan club, e-mail updates and a Stones DVD. However, \$100 also buys a commemorative poster and special access to tour tickets.

The amenities for members can be a fan's dream. Turn-style, a smaller company whose clients include Kid Rock and Pamela Anderson, offers raffles where fans can win a birthday phone call from their favorite artist.

FansRule was pushing to bring fans even closer to their idols.

Founder and former CEO Neil Donahue, a venture capitalist and music producer, says his company was "pioneering in fan experiences."

It specialized in getting fans front row and backstage as part of a "velvet rope experience."

Brian Sikorski, CEO of Ticketrends.com, said FansRule was an innovator in the highest growth area of the music business. Mike Lundgren, former chief operating officer of FansRule, says the company only went bankrupt because of "external financial reasons" — which remain murky.

Sikorski talks of mismanaged funds. Baldiga says an individual may have taken money from the company — a possibility Sikorski questions likely, noting the questionable nature of "external financial reasons" — which remain murky.

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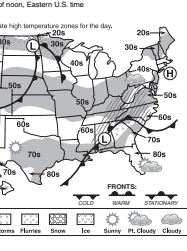
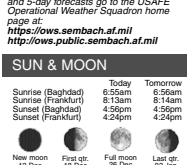
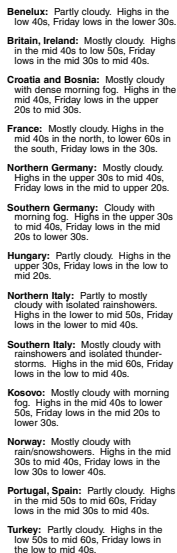
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Realtors at your new station.

**STARS AND STRIPES®**  
Your Hometown Newspaper



# Horoscope

The moon in Scorpio passes Venus and Mars, activating relationships in a sensual way. Colors seem more vivid and sounds more hypnotic as we fall into the trance of animal attraction. This weekend has truly magical potential for relationships. As on New Year's Eve, make sure you're with the one you want to accompany you in the new year.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

**(December 9).** Your environment improves drastically this year, giving you a winning outlook. New blessings on your family in the next seven weeks start the changes, and there come on quickly. May features career opportunity. Put in extra hours, and your financial reward allows you to travel and play in the summer. Pisces and Virgo are stellar partners.

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Friends need you. If you make it a habit to assist to your comfort level, you'll keep being asked for the same help over and over. Instead, stretch out your arms, and do all you can. Together, you can heal this once and for all.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

For you, the time continuum generally keeps a plodding, consistent march forward—but not today. Time whizzes forward, whirrs and flips, and boomerangs back. You feel like you're in an experimental film.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Indifference is easy—at least the way you do it. You're strong and can take care of you. Finances improve as a result. Of course, just when you've got it all together, love steps in to confuse and bewilder you.

## CANCER (June 22-July 22)

The famous sociologist Erving Goffman claimed that we are all actors portraying ourselves. Today, you see through that act and make people forget their times.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You can work on your skills until the cows come home, but it's not your

skills that will ultimately bring you the success you crave. The right attitude, coupled with the latest information, brings victory. Seek a qualified mentor.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Team effort is where it's at. With your allies, you'll face your rivals head on and meet much less opposition than you thought was there. Trust is key. Keep all your agreements, no matter how inconvenient.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

You'll be the recipient of flattery and automatically wonder what your flatterer is up to. Your natural skepticism keeps you from falling to the ranks of the blissfully oblivious, but relax. Your admirer speaks the truth.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

It's hard to find anything you hate more than being told what to do. If people suggest that they know better even through a vocal tone or slanted eyebrow, they'll find themselves "talking to the hand."

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You may make that figurative journey to the top of the mountain and meet not a wise sage, guru or holy man but an enlightened version of yourself. How does it feel to have all the answers?

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

There are tangible serious things at stake, that keep you in a diplomatic mode of operation. Though it's easier to grin and bear the wrongs of others, it's not better for your long-term bottom line. Be truthful.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

There are too many openings for misinterpretation now to try and have a meaningful conversation, so keep it light. If you're thinking of upgrading your operating system, do research now but do not insert a single disk.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

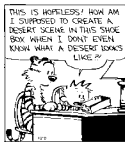
Mechanical devices come in extremely handy. A techie friend is there to help you figure them out, but beware—it could take all day. To avoid frustration, leave enough time. New and nerdy knowledge is ever so appealing!

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



## Zits



## Cathy



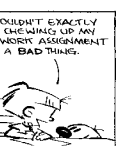
## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



## Red Rover



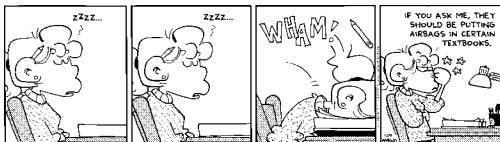
## Better or Worse



## Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



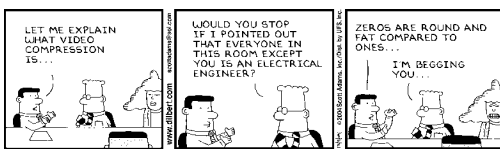
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



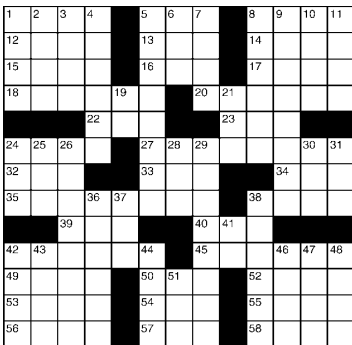
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

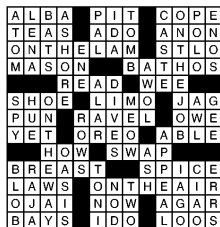
- 1 Stereo hookup
- 5 "Cabaret" lyricist
- 8 Fixed hems
- 12 Particular
- 13 Meadow
- 14 "I cannot tell —"
- 15 Strikerbreaker
- 16 Couple from Tennessee?
- 17 Comic Jay
- 18 Seafood selection
- 20 Paradise
- 22 Scrooge's mutter
- 23 "I — Rock"
- 24 Genealogy chart
- 27 Liquid appetizer
- 32 Tin Man's need
- 33 Zilch
- 34 Bobby of hockey
- 35 Brunch entree
- 38 Talk like an ass
- 39 More, to Manuel
- 40 Moo — gai pan
- 42 Detective
- 45 Crocheted blanket
- 49 Breather
- 50 Grecian vessel
- 52 DNA component
- 53 Vow
- 54 Fond du —, Wis.
- 55 Reply to "Shall we?"
- 56 Smooch
- 57 Sailor's assent
- 58 Tend texts

## Down

- 1 Greet the villain
- 2 Craving
- 3 "Factor"
- 4 Drink
- 5 GOP mascot
- 6 Ponderosa
- 7 Wild party
- 8 Deli order
- 9 Lift
- 10 Sommelier's concern
- 11 Night light
- 19 Bell or Barker
- 21 Corn spike
- 24 Excessively
- 25 Edge
- 26 Periodic Table list
- 28 Trench

- 29 Polish
- 30 401(k) alternative
- 31 Saute
- 36 Music to
- 37 Superlative suffix
- 38 Word-finding game
- 41 "— course"
- 42 Oscar Madison, e.g.
- 43 Waikiki
- 44 ... and its
- 45 winding ...
- 46 Pay attention
- 47 Con
- 48 Fit in snugly
- 51 Bob's longtime partner

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 12-9

## CRYPTOQUIP

XS OSH WYZKYLY GBJG J  
LYAO USUHZZA NSJU SUYAJ  
NBSHZX WY XHWWYX J

BSG NYAKJZ?  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN NUCLEAR  
CHEMISTS' PASS AWAY, I SUPPOSE IT'S  
COMPLETELY SUITABLE TO BARIUM.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals T

# In-laws' 'tip' should be accepted

**Dear Abby:** My in-laws, who live seven hours away, spent last night in our guest room. They arrived late and had already eaten dinner on the road. My husband was away on business, and my in-laws and I had fun talking, laughing and sharing stories.

This morning I got dressed, spoke with them for a few minutes and left for work. They had the run of the house. I encouraged them to sleep late, help themselves to whatever was in the kitchen, and lock the door behind them when they left.

When I returned from work I noticed they had left a sweet note and a \$50 bill! My husband says they did it to be nice and I should accept the money. My mother says I should take the money and buy new sheets for the guest room.

I feel terrible. I don't know why they left the money. My husband and I both work and earn good money. Our house

isn't as nice as theirs, but we've been married for only two years. My first reaction was to return the money with a brief note explaining that we don't charge for hospitality.

My husband says that would be cruel. Your thoughts, please.

— **Hurt in Wisconsin**

**Dear Abby**



**Dear Hurt:** I'm sure no insult was intended. The money was a gift, so accept it graciously in the spirit it was given. Your mother's suggestion to put it toward new sheets for the guest room is a good one. The next time your in-laws visit, show them that you used the money to make them more comfortable. I'm sure they'll be touched.

**Dear Abby:** My daughter, "Victoria," is 20. She attends college and is engaged to a 27-year-old man I'll call Albert. They have been engaged for about a year and have lived

together for two. They plan to be married in the fall of 2005.

Victoria and Albert think I should pay him for her rent and other expenses for the two years she has been living with him. It adds up to about \$8,000. I think that since Victoria is living with him, Albert should be the provider. My daughter is an adult, and I know I am not obligated to support her. But I want to do the right thing.

Frankly, I do not approve of their living arrangement. Neither of them is speaking to me because I haven't given them the money. Should I pay for something I don't agree with?

— **Confused in California**

**Dear Confused:** I have wracked my brain trying to come up with one single reason why you should — and I can't come up with even one. And if your daughter's fiancé were much of a man, he wouldn't ask you to.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.uepress.com/dearabby>

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**TREXE**

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**BOMIL**

**FRILCO**

**CLUSKE**

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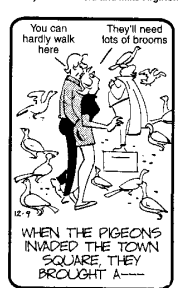
**CLUSKE**

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon. (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PRUNE WHEAT MIDWAY CROUCH  
Answer: When the soldiers had a spelling contest, it turned into — A "WORD" WAR

# Mom fears son rebounding badly

**Dear Annie:** My 20-year-old son, "Todd," is a college student who lives at home. Recently, his long-term girlfriend broke up with him, essentially saying he wasn't good enough for her. Todd was heartbroken. He had planned to marry her when they finished college.

A week after she broke up with him, Todd met another girl, "Heidi." Here's my problem. He met Heidi on Sunday, and by Tuesday, he practically moved in with her. Oh, he comes home every day to shower, change clothes and get his mail, but he hasn't slept in his own bed since he met her.

I know Todd is 20 years old, and I accept that he is sexually active, but it bothers me that he's on the rebound and won't admit it.

I think he's using Heidi in a big way. Todd insists he wants a long-term relationship. I've never met Heidi, but I get the impression she is emotionally fragile and needy, just like Todd. I think he's acting like a jerk, but talking to

**Annie's Mailbox**



him does not good. Worse, Todd's behavior sets a terrible example for his two younger siblings.

We don't want Todd to move out, because we believe that would push him further into this unhealthy relationship.

— **Stressed-Out Mom**

**Dear Stressed-Out:** Rebound relationships can be devastating if one person is more

invested than the other. Unfortunately, there isn't much you can do. Todd needs consolation, and he's found someone to provide it.

If your younger children are teenagers, you can discuss this with them, explaining why we disapprove of Todd's behavior. Eventually, they may see for themselves that Todd's hasty decision was misguided.

You might try to meet Heidi. You are making assumptions based on Todd's presumed state of mind, and it would be a good idea to see exactly what's what.

**Dear Annie:** This is for "Albany," who wants to reconcile with his 40-year-old daughter, but she can't forgive him for divorcing her mother and marrying the woman he had an affair with. He should respect his daughter's wishes and stop contacting her. He decided on this tradeoff when he left his wife for another woman.

This is happening in my home right now. I neither encourage nor discourage our children to see their father. Slowly and surely he slips away more and more from them.

— **Ex-Wife in Lubbock, Texas**

**Dear Ex-Wife:** We received a huge number of responses from bitter ex-spouses who agree with you. However, the relationship between a parent and child is different, and if there is any possibility of forgiveness and reconciliation, we think it's better than endless punishment and permanent estrangement.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



## GRAFFITI

The only thing that separates a prober from a bookie is his education.

WBA 12/9

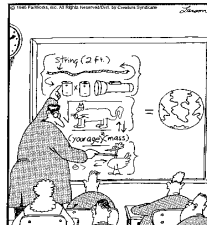
## Domis the Menace



"WHEN I GET OLD ENOUGH, I'M GONNA VOTE TO MAKE WINTER LAST ALL YEAR."

## © Gary Larson

The Far Side



Creationism explained

## Non Sequitur



12-9

# SCOREBOARD

## AFN & Radio

### Thursday

**AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.** - NBA: Orlando at Utah (td).  
**AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.** - College basketball: Minnesota at Jacksonville.  
**AFN-Sports, 4 p.m.** - Radio: National Finals (td).  
**AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.** - Golf: Target World Challenge, first round.

### Friday

**AFN-Atlantic, 11 a.m.** - College football: Home Depot Awards Show.  
**AFN-Radio, 2 a.m.** - NBA: San Antonio at Houston.  
**AFN-Sports, 2:15 a.m.** - NBA: San Antonio at Houston.  
**AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.** - NBA: Boston at Portland.  
**AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.** - College basketball: Connecticut at Massachusetts (td).  
**AFN-Sports, noon** - Radio: National Finals (td).  
**AFN-Sports, 3:30 p.m.** - NFL: Films Game of the Week II (td).  
**AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.** - Golf: Target World Challenge, second round.

All times Central European time; did indicate subject to change. Visit [www.mylife.net](http://www.mylife.net) for more information.

## Pro football

### NFL

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts
New England	11	0	0	.909	54
N.Y. Jets	9	1	0	.750	44
Buffalo	9	2	0	.667	34
Miami	2	10	0	.167	196

South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts
Indianapolis	9	3	0	.750	43
Jacksonville	8	4	0	.667	34
Houston	5	7	0	.417	28
Tennessee	6	6	0	.500	33

North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts
Pittsburgh	11	0	0	.909	54
Carolina	9	2	0	.818	44
Cincinnati	6	5	0	.545	26
Cleveland	6	5	0	.545	26

West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts
San Diego	9	3	0	.750	39
Denver	7	5	0	.583	27
San Francisco	7	5	0	.583	27
Oakland	6	6	0	.500	23

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	Pts
Philadelphia	11	0	0	.910	54
New Orleans	9	2	0	.818	44
N.Y. Giants	9	2	0	.818	44
Washington	8	3	0	.727	39

South	W	L	T	Pct	Pts
Atlanta	9	3	0	.750	39
Carolina	5	7	0	.417	28
Atlanta	5	7	0	.417	28
New Orleans	4	8	0	.333	24

North	W	L	T	Pct	Pts
Green Bay	9	3	0	.750	39
Minnesota	5	7	0	.417	28
Washington	5	7	0	.417	28
Detroit	4	8	0	.333	24

West	W	L	T	Pct	Pts
St. Louis	6	6	0	.500	25
Seattle	6	6	0	.500	25
San Francisco	4	8	0	.333	19

**Sunday's games**  
 Oakland at Atlanta  
 New Orleans at Dallas  
 Cleveland at Buffalo  
 New York at Baltimore  
 Indianapolis at Houston  
 New England at Jacksonville  
 Cincinnati at New England  
 Seattle at Minnesota  
 N.Y. Jets at Pittsburgh  
 Detroit at Green Bay  
 San Francisco at Arizona  
 Philadelphia at Washington

#### Monday's game

Kansas City at Tennessee

## College basketball

### Men's AP Top 25 ranked

#### Tuesday

1. Illinois (7-0) did not play. Next: at Georgetown, Thursday.  
 2. Kansas (4-0) did not play. Next: vs. Texas Christian, Thursday.  
 3. Georgetown (5-0) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama, Saturday.  
 4. Syracuse (7-1) lost to No. 5 Oklahoma State, 70-69. Next: vs. Oklahoma State, 7-10 p.m. Saturday.  
 5. Oklahoma State (6-0) beat the 5. Syracuse, 74-64. Next: vs. Alabama-Birmingham, Saturday.  
 6. Wake Forest (6-1) did not play. Next: at Tennessee, Thursday.  
 7. Connecticut (4-0) did not play. Next: vs. UCLA, Thursday.  
 8. North Carolina (6-1) did not play. Next: vs. UCLA, Thursday.  
 9. Duke (5-0) did not play. Next: vs. Toledo, Sunday.  
 10. Kentucky (4-1) did not play. Next: vs. Morehead State, Wednesday.  
 11. Pittsburgh (4-0) beat Memphis 70-51. Next: at Penn State, Saturday.  
 12. North Carolina State (6-0) did not play. Next: vs. Liberty, Saturday.  
 13. Louisville (4-1) did not play. Next: at Florida, Saturday.  
 14. Texas (6-1) beat North Texas 86-57.

Next: vs. Texas-Arlington, Wednesday, Dec. 15.  
 15. Arizona (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. Utah, Saturday.  
 16. Washington (6-1) beat San Diego State 96-69. Next: at Loyola Marymount, Sunday.  
 17. Iowa (7-1) did not play. Next: Iowa State, vs. Iowa State, Friday.  
 18. Alabama (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Texas Tech, Saturday.  
 19. Virginia (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. Furman, Wednesday.  
 20. Michigan State (4-2) did not play. Next: vs. Stanford, Saturday.  
 21. Georgetown (5-0) did not play. Next: at St. Francis, Pa., Saturday.  
 22. Arkansas (4-2) did not play. Next: vs. Texas Tech, Saturday.  
 23. North Carolina (6-1) beat North Texas 75-55. Next: at Marquette, Saturday.  
 24. Georgetown (6-1) beat Washington State 54-52. Next: at Saint Louis, Saturday.

### Tuesday's men's scores

**EAST**  
 Albright 87, Wilkes 71.  
 Amherst 86, Worcester St. 60.  
 Bard 74, Sarah Lawrence 56.  
 Boston 10, Harvard 5.  
 Bowdoin 62, Clark 13.  
 Bucknell 60, Robert Morris 45.  
 Carnegie-Mellon 82, Hiram 49.  
 Coast Guard 88, Becker 56.  
 Davidson 70, Wake Forest 67.  
 D'Yonville 67, Middle 51.  
 Duquesne 70, Penn State 67.  
 Geneva 132, Penn St.-Beraver 49.  
 Gettysburg 79, Gettysburg 79.  
 Ithaca 79, Cortland 50.  
 Lehigh Valley 67, Delaware Valley 59.  
 Maryland 74, St. John's 40.  
 LIU 74, Brooklyn 55.  
 N.Y. St. John's 74, LIU 74.  
 New England Coll. 81, Wentworth Coll. 77.  
 New York Coll. 74, St. John's 40.  
 Oklahoma St. 74, Syracuse 60.  
 Owens 88, Keuka 44, 3OT.  
 Pittsburgh 70, Memphis 51.  
 Plymouth St. 78, Tufts 97 OT.  
 Point Park 101, Penn St.-Gettysburg 64.  
 Saint Joseph 74, Penn State 67.  
 St. Francis, Pa. 74, St. John's 40.  
 Villanova 70, Monmouth, N.J. 51.  
 Wake Forest 74, Wake Forest 74.  
 Wheaton, Mass. 77, Connecticut Coll. 67.  
 York 74, York 74.

**SOUTH**  
 Alabama 74, Alabama 74.  
 Auburn 78, Coll. of Charleston 61.  
 Clemson 74, Clemson 74.  
 Bryan 71, Alice 67.  
 Buffalo 70, Elton 63.  
 Chattanooga 74, Chattanooga 74.  
 Centenary 84, Arkansas Baptist 71.  
 St. Francis, Pa. 74, St. John's 40.  
 Louisiana 74, Louisiana 74.  
 Mercer 88, Furman 56.  
 Miami 80, Fla. International 67.  
 Southern Miss. 76, Spring Hill 60.  
 Union, N.C. 72, Covenant 74.  
 Virginia Union 78, Randolph Macon 57.  
 W. Carolina 71, East Carolina 72 OT.  
 West Georgia 81, Clayton 78.  
 W. Carolina 71, East Carolina 72 OT.

**MIDWEST**  
 Aquinas 75, Aquinas 75.  
 Arkansas 62, Missouri 52.  
 Ball State 74, Ball State 74.  
 Bellevue 70, Columbia, Mo. 60.  
 Bowling Green 74, Bowling Green 74.  
 Cent. Michigan 88, TSU 77.  
 Cent. Missouri 83, Missouri Valley 72.  
 Cleveland 74, Cleveland 74.  
 Coll. of the Ozarks 67, Evangel 60.  
 Cornerstone 79, Cornerstone 79.  
 Dayton 62, Wyoming 57.  
 Illinois 86, Benedictine 61.  
 E. Michigan 89, Rochester, Mich. 29.  
 Edgewood 77, Marshall 77.  
 Europa 77, Greenville 65.  
 Grinnell 115, Grand View 71.  
 Huntington 75, Grace 66.  
 Illinois St. 75, Alcorn St. 75.  
 Ind.-Pur. 87, Wayne 64, Utah St. 59.  
 Kent St. 67, Creighton 58.  
 Lake Forest 61, Knox 79.  
 Marquette 76, St. Dakota 50.  
 Michigan 74, Michigan 74.  
 Michigan 67, High Point 53.  
 Mark 75, Mark 75.  
 Nebraska-Kearney 93, Hastings 75.  
 Nebraska-Omaha 81, William 73.  
 North Central 85, Martin Luther 74.  
 North Dakota 74, Minn.-Moorhead 69.  
 Ohio 74, Ohio 74.  
 Northern St. 83, Augustana 54.  
 North Texas 74, North Texas 74.  
 Pittsburg 88, Rockhurst 81.

Shawnee St. 92, W. Va. Wesleyan 69.  
 Southern St. 92, Minn.-Morris 71.  
 St. Louis 75, Wilkes 69.  
 Toledo 83, Nevada 75.  
 Western Mo. 86, Franklin 87.  
 Warburg 75, Mount Mercy 67.  
 Wayne 74, Wayne 74.  
 William Jewell 61, Park 57.  
 Wisconsin 82, Upper Iowa 59.  
 Wis.-Milwaukee 57, Saint Louis 47.  
 Wis.-Platteville 50, Wis.-Whitewater 70.  
 Wis.-Stevens 65, Wis.-River Falls 65.  
 Wisconsin 82, Wisconsin 82.  
 Wisconsin 65, Wis.-Green Bay 55.  
 Wisconsin 82, Wisconsin 82.

**FALL WEST**  
 Colorado 63, Cal State 53.  
 Colorado St. 76, Montana St. 53.  
 San Diego 74, San Jose 55.  
 San Francisco 75, Sacramento 69.  
 Washington St. 69, Washington St. 69.  
 Bethany 87, Hood 78.

### Women's AP Top 25 ranked

**Tuesday**  
 1. LSU (8-0) did not play. Next: at No. 16 Minnesota, Tuesday.  
 2. Stanford (5-0) did not play. Next: vs. Liberty, Tuesday.  
 3. Duke (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Pepperdine, Tuesday.  
 4. Texas (4-2) did not play. Next: at North Texas, Tuesday.  
 5. North Carolina (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. North Carolina, Sunday.  
 6. Baylor (6-1) did not play. Next: vs. Penn State, Sunday.  
 7. Notre Dame (7-1) did not play. Next: at DePaul, Sunday.  
 8. Connecticut (3-1) beat Hartford 55-32. Next: at Anne Arundel, Tuesday, Dec. 21.  
 9. Tennessee (4-2) did not play. Next: vs. North Carolina, Sunday.  
 10. Ohio State (7-1) did not play. Next: vs. Nebraska, Saturday.  
 11. Georgia (5-2) lost to Arizona State 74-68. Next: at Connecticut, Friday.  
 12. Michigan State (6-1) did not play. Next: vs. Eastern Illinois, Thursday.  
 13. Texas Tech (3-3) did not play. Next: vs. Oral Roberts, Thursday.  
 14. Vanderbilt (6-0) did not play. Next: at Western Kentucky, Thursday.  
 15. Vanderbilt (6-0) did not play. Next: at No. 2 Purdue, Thursday.  
 16. Minnesota (4-3) did not play. Next: at Wisconsin-Green Bay, Wednesday.  
 17. Rutgers (4-3) did not play. Next: vs. Fordham, Wednesday.  
 18. UCLA (5-1) did not play. Next: at Fresno State, Thursday.  
 19. Maryland (6-1) beat St. Bonaventure 91-42. Next: vs. Monmouth, N.J., Sunday.  
 20. Arkansas (4-3) did not play. Next: vs. Princeton, Wednesday.  
 21. Purdue (4-2) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma, Thursday.  
 22. TCU (6-2) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma, Thursday.  
 23. Georgia (5-1) did not play. Next: at No. 1 Georgia, Sunday.  
 24. Kansas State (7-2) did not play. Next: at Missouri-Kansas City, Saturday.

### Tuesday's women's scores

**EAST**  
 Army 79, Brown 72.  
 Baruch 84, John Jay 25.  
 Boston 73, Conn. Connecticut St. 58.  
 Boston 73, Conn. Connecticut St. 58.  
 Bucknell 68, Buffalo 56.  
 Campbell 75, La Roche 46.  
 Connecticut 55, Hartford 32.  
 Davidson 74, Davidson 74.  
 Dickinson 65, McDaniel 62.  
 Duquesne 74, Duquesne 74.  
 Duquesne 82, Pittsburgh 71.  
 Emmanuel 78, Newbury 49.  
 Fredonia 56, Penn St. Behrend 55.  
 Gettysburg 74, Franklin & Marshall 58.  
 Hartwick 61, Hamilton 72.  
 Holy Cross 59, Rhode Island 59.  
 Johns Hopkins 43, Swarthmore 37.  
 Long Island 55, Long Island 55.  
 Long Island 55, Wagner 55.  
 Mass.-Dartmouth 63, Bridgewater, Mass. 54.  
 North Carolina 53, Elizabeth 35.  
 NY-Cornell 65, Brooklyn 43.  
 New England Coll. 53, West. North Carolina 53.  
 New York St. 72, Indiana, Pa. 54.  
 Oswego 76, BPI 72.  
 Robert Morris 66, Longwood 54.

Rochester 63, William Smith 50.  
 Rochester Tech 72, Potsdam 80.  
 St. Francis 74, St. Francis Point 57.  
 Salem College 68, Anna Maria 50.  
 St. Vincent 75, Alderson-Brooks 60.  
 St. John Fisher 78, Brockport 56.  
 St. Vincent 75, Alderson-Brooks 60.  
 Story Brook 69, Providence 62.  
 Union 82, Albany 81.  
 Tusculum 76, Fairleigh Dickinson 67.  
 Union 82, Albany 81.  
 Ursinus 61, Phila. Bible 47.  
 Wesleyan, Conn. 68, Coast Guard 49.  
 Wesleyan, Conn. 68, Coast Guard 49.  
 Williams 73, Keene 49.

**SOUTHWEST**  
 Alabama 74, UAB 55.  
 Arizona St. 57, Arizona St. 57.  
 Ark.-Little Rock 52, Centenary 48.  
 Arkansas 74, Arkansas 74.  
 Barry 68, Eckerd 55.  
 Birmingham-Tennessee 54.  
 Birmingham-Southern 67, Rhodes 48.  
 E. Mississippi 57, Washington & Lee 47.  
 Emory & Henry 65, Ferrum 60.  
 Furman 52, Elon 42.  
 Hollins 41, Guilford 55.  
 Johnson C. Smith 75, Presbyterian 67.  
 Lipscomb 62, Fisk 55.  
 Louisiana-Monroe 69, Southern Miss. 64.  
 Maryland 91, St. Bonaventure 42.  
 Morehead 55, Miles 47.  
 Newberry 81, Converse 64.  
 Randolph-Alabama 72, Bridgewater, Va. 55.  
 Seawanh 53, Emory 43.  
 Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 75, Tulane 57.  
 Virginia 54, Lees-Kellogg 49.  
 Virginia 54, Lees-Kellogg 49.  
 Virginia Tech 74, Columbia Union 64.  
 Augusta State 66, Liberty 55.

**MIDWEST**  
 Virginia Tech 58, Northern St. D.S. 80.  
 Avila 68, Graceland 55.  
 Blackburn 71, St. Louis Pharmacy 33.  
 Bradley 79, Bradley 79.  
 Cent. Iowa 67, Mount Mercy 65.  
 DePaul 74, DePaul 74.  
 Coll. of the Ozarks 75, Missouri-Rolla 70.  
 Concordia 53, Minn.-Marquette 73.  
 Dana 67, Midland Lutheran 63.  
 Dayton 65, Wright 52, 5OT.  
 Aurora 65, Aurora 65.  
 Marquette 74, Marquette 74.  
 N. Michigan 87, Finlandia 52.  
 North Central 52, Scholastic 61.  
 North Central 52, Benedictine 61.  
 North Central 52, Benedictine 61.  
 Rio Grande 78, Midway 58.  
 St. Albans 58, Saint Louis 53.  
 St. Albans 58, Saint Louis 53.  
 St. Albans 58, Saint Louis 53.  
 St. Albans 58, Saint Louis 53.  
 St. Albans 58, Saint Louis 53.

**WEST**  
 Houston 74, Houston 74.  
 Arkansas Baptist 34, Trinity, Texas 78.  
 Trinity, Texas 78, Trinity, Texas 78.  
 Trinity, Texas 78, Trinity, Texas 78.  
 Trinity, Texas 78, Trinity, Texas 78.  
 Trinity, Texas 78, Trinity, Texas 78.

### College football

#### Division I-AA playoffs

**Semifinals**  
**Friday, Dec. 10**  
 James Madison (12-1) at William & Mary (11-2).  
 St. Louis (12-1) at Montana (11-2).

#### At Hailu Municipal Stadium

**Friday, Dec. 11**  
 At Hailu Municipal Stadium  
 Chattanooga, Tenn.  
 Semifinal winners

#### Division II playoffs

**Semifinals**  
**Saturday, Dec. 11**  
 Mary Hardin-Baylor (12-1) at Ohio (11-4).  
 Rowan, N.J. (10-2) at Linfield, Ore. (11-4).

#### Division III playoffs

**Semifinals**  
**Saturday, Dec. 11**  
 Ohio (12-1) at Valosta State (12-3).  
 Rowan, N.J. (10-2) at Linfield, Ore. (11-4).

#### Division III playoffs

**Semifinals**  
**Saturday, Dec. 11**  
 Ohio (12-1) at Valosta State (12-3).  
 Rowan, N.J. (10-2) at Linfield, Ore. (11-4).

#### Division III playoffs

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**Saturday, Dec. 11**  
 Ohio (12-1) at Valosta State (12-3).  
 Rowan, N.J. (10-2) at Linfield, Ore. (11-4).

#### Division III playoffs

**Semifinals**



## NBA scoreboard

## Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
New York	9	17	34.1
Boston	10	16	38.1
Philadelphia	10	15	35.3
Toronto	12	13	37.9
New Jersey	13	12	27.8
Southeast Division			
Washington	10	16	56.7
Orlando	10	16	56.7
Charlotte	12	13	63.2
Miami	12	13	63.2
Atlanta	14	11	59.9
Central Division	13	16	8
Cleveland	12	16	—
Chicago	8	22	—
Detroit	9	23	21.3
Indiana	10	21	33.3
Milwaukee	13	18	33.3

## Western Conference

Southwest Division			
W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	10	16	84.2
Phoenix	11	15	84.2
Houston	18	41	42.1
Memphis	16	20	44.4
New Orleans	1	35	13.1
Northwest Division			
Seattle	13	13	83.3
Portland	11	16	54.7
Minnesota	10	17	58.8
Los Angeles	8	20	60.0
Denver	10	17	58.8
Pacific Division	13	13	83.3
Phoenix	13	13	72.2
Sacramento	10	16	61.1
LA Clippers	10	17	58.8
LA Lakers	9	18	58.8
Golden State	9	18	58.8

## Tuesday's games

Philadelphia 88, Indiana 85
Cleveland 103, New Jersey 97
Memphis 96, New York 86
Dallas 97, Minnesota 87
Houston 89, New Orleans 81
Phoenix 118, Golden State 104
Sacramento 99, Charlotte 95

## Wednesday's games

Denver 97, Washington 90
Minnesota at Philadelphia
Memphis at Atlanta
Toronto at Detroit
Miami at Milwaukee
New York at New Orleans
Cleveland at Chicago
Seattle at San Antonio
Orlando at Utah
Phoenix at LA Lakers

## Thursday's games

San Antonio at Houston
Seattle at Dallas
Boston at Portland
Friday's games
Denver at Toronto
New York at Washington
Philadelphia at Miami
New Orleans at New Jersey
Portland at Minnesota
Atlanta at Detroit
Indiana at Milwaukee
San Antonio at Chicago
Portland at Utah
Orlando at Golden State

## Saturday's games

BUCKS 89, PISTONS 87
MILWAUKEE — Mason 18-17-21, Smith 6-11-0-12, Gasdic 10-4-1-9, Redd 10-21-7-26, M.Williams 28-10-6-16, James 14-0-0-3, Strickland 2-2-2-2, G. Gill 12-2-3, Pachula 0-0-0-0, Hamilton 0-0-1-1, Totals 35-78 17-23-89
INDIANA — F.Jones 5-10-13-13, Foster 4-16-19, Harrison 6-7-13-13, Miller 11-18-6-6-32, Egill 0-0-0-0, Johnson 4-6-11, Croshere 2-11-14-7, Edwards 0-0-0-0, Jones 11-21-14, 7-26, M.Williams 28-10-6-16, James 14-0-0-3, Strickland 2-2-2-2, G. Gill 12-2-3, Pachula 0-0-0-0, Hamilton 0-0-1-1, Totals 35-78 17-23-89

## Sunday's games

INDIANA — F.Jones 5-10-13-13, Foster 4-16-19, Harrison 6-7-13-13, Miller 11-18-6-6-32, Egill 0-0-0-0, Johnson 4-6-11, Croshere 2-11-14-7, Edwards 0-0-0-0, Jones 11-21-14, 7-26, M.Williams 28-10-6-16, James 14-0-0-3, Strickland 2-2-2-2, G. Gill 12-2-3, Pachula 0-0-0-0, Hamilton 0-0-1-1, Totals 35-78 17-23-89
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Rebounds—Milwaukee 56 (Gasdic 17), Indiana 38 (Croshere 12), Assist—Milwaukee 15 (F.Jones 12), Indiana 22 (Johnson 12), Total Fouls—Milwaukee 24, Indiana 26, Technical Fouls—Indiana 2, Indiana 2, Defensive Three Second—A-15-21 (18,345).

## Cavaliers 103, Nets 97

NEW JERSEY — E.Williams 12-5-2-3, Collins 5-10-6-17, Mourning 8-10-6-10, Kidd 12-11-11-11, Jefferson 7-13-12-11, Johnson 11-18-6-6-32, Egill 0-0-0-0, Johnson 4-6-11, Croshere 2-11-14-7, Edwards 0-0-0-0, Jones 11-21-14, 7-26, M.Williams 28-10-6-16, James 14-0-0-3, Strickland 2-2-2-2, G. Gill 12-2-3, Pachula 0-0-0-0, Hamilton 0-0-1-1, Totals 35-78 17-23-89

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# Streaking Kings stay behind red-hot Suns

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The Sacramento Kings went down. And again, they failed to gain any ground on the Phoenix Suns.

Paja Stojakovic had season highs of 30 points and 12 rebounds, and Brad Miller scored 27 points in the Kings' 12th victory in 13 games, 109-92 over the Charlotte Bobcats on Tuesday night.

With Chris Webber sitting out to rest his sore left knee, Darus Songaila matched his career high with 17 points and 11 rebounds in four quarters with straight wins.

Bobby Jackson scored 16 points for the Kings, who have lost just once in four weeks but haven't been able to gain any ground on the Pacific Division-leading Suns, who also have won 12 of 13.

"It's a little early to be thinking about the standings like that," Kings coach Rick Adelman said. "Mike (D'Antoni) has got Phoenix just playing great, and we've been on a good run for a while, too."

It's going to be about consistency in our division. We're just going to try to stay at as high of a level as possible. If we can stay consistent and not go into a funk like last year, I think we'll be fine."

The Kings had a 15-0 run spanning halftime and easily held on for their ninth victory in 10 home games this season.

"We missed Chris, but it's good for everybody to take more responsibility," Stojakovic said. "We did a pretty good job defensively and on the boards."

Webber sat out for the first time this season to rest his left knee, which required major surgery after he tore ligaments during a playoff game in May 2003. Greg Ostertag took Webber's starting spot, but Songaila excelled in his most extensive playing time this season.

New acquisition Kareem Rush scored 14 points in his debut with



Roundup

the Bobcats, who kept it close despite having just nine players in uniform one night after a double-overtime loss to the Clippers.

Amare Stoudemire had 33 points and 11 rebounds, Shawn Marion had 23 points and 10 rebounds, and Joe Johnson chipped in 20 points for Phoenix.

**Cavaliers 103, Nets 97:** At Cleveland, LeBron James scored 27 points and assisted on Lucious Harris' clinching three-pointer with 6 seconds left as the first-place Cavaliers won their eighth straight at home.

The Cavaliers (12-6) have the best record in the Eastern Conference — the first time they've had that distinction after 15 games since March 21, 1989, when they were 48-17.

**NY Knicks 97, Timberwolves 87:** At Minneapolis, Dirk Nowitzki scored 34 points, including 23 in the second half, to snap the Timberwolves' five-game winning streak.

**Grizzlies 96, Knicks 88:** At Memphis, Earl Watson scored a career-high 22 points, missing only one of his 10 shots, and Mike Miller added 20.

**Rockets 89, Hornets 81:** At Houston, Yao Ming scored 21 points and had nine rebounds, and backup point guard Andre Barrett scored 10 of his 14 points in the fourth quarter.

**Bucks 89, Pacers 88:** At Indianapolis, Michael Redd scored 28 points to lead Milwaukee to its first road win of the season. It was the fifth straight loss for the Pacers, the latest losing streak for Indiana under second-year coach Rick Carlisle.

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## Top Scores for Week 13

250	Buffalo Soldier 3112	Engle base
242	MY"BOYS" ARE BACK	Yokosuka
238	mukat	Babenhansen
236	adenniss	Yokota
236	Scarface	CAMPBELL
236	TREXBALL	HQ, USAREUR, G2
232	Bone-Daddy	
230	Big dog	
230	dereck00	1st Infantry Division
228	KatinGermany	Patton Barracks

## Best Overall Scores

2188	glants1	hbc 2/37 ar
2176	Bone-Daddy	HQ, HISAURE, G2
2176	STEELFORWOOD	MAG-12
2174	Jack58	422 ABS RAF Croughton
2174	SPIELMEISTER 04	Hohenfels
2164	Rambi	RAF Leakeath
2160	Jaguar One	DDODS (Stephen Decatur)
2166	Joe Corson	DDODS (Stephen Decatur)
2166	BengalsAtWay	DDODS (Stephen Decatur)
2166	habusaki	DDODS (Stephen Decatur)

See websites for official game rules.

Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

# Senior-laden No. 5 Cowboys beat No. 4 Orange in Jimmy V

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** Oklahoma State has a roster even on a longtime coach like Eddie Sutton loves to have.

There are six seniors on the Cowboys, a team that reached the Final Four last season. Nothing makes a coach feel better than a roomful of seniors.

The upperclassmen played a big role in the fifth-ranked Cowboys' 74-60 victory over No. 4 Syracuse on Tuesday night in the Jimmy V Classic.

"The seniors did a great job when we broke the game open and got ahead," said Sutton, who picked up win No. 761. "The seniors played the way they should play. I didn't think we played as well as we can, but we played better in the second half. Every coach thrives on a veteran comeback, especially because we went to the Final Four last year."

Stephen Graham, Joey Graham and Ivan McFarlin, all seniors, each had 16 points for the Cowboys (6-0) and John Lucas and Daniel Bobik, two other members of that class, each hit a big three-pointer in the second half.

"They have six seniors. I don't think anybody has that kind of experience and they have a great coach," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said. "That was a tremendous, physical, defensive battle. We played aggressively as well as we can tonight."

Stephen Graham had two three-point plays as Oklahoma State pulled away from a 45-41

## Men's Top 25 roundup

free-throw line.

"That second half, we probably played as well as we can play," Sutton said. "That first half, I told them they played like they had never been coached. That first half was one of the worst halves I've seen in a long, long time."

Bobik hit a three with 7 minutes left to give the Cowboys a 45-44 lead. Lucas then hit a three-pointer, and his first field goal — to break that last tie and start a 17-4 run that included Graham's two big plays.

Ivan McFarlin scored with 2:20 to go to cap a 17-4 run and give Oklahoma State a 62-49 lead.

Gerry McNamara hit three threes in the closing 1:23 to get Syracuse within 66-60, but the Orange couldn't get any closer.

McFarlin had 12 rebounds as the Cowboys finished with a 46-33 advantage on the boards. Josh Pace had 20 points, two off his career-high, for Syracuse, while McNamara had 18 and Hakim Warrick 13. Warrick, a career 64 percent free-throw shooter, was just 5-for-13 from the line and Syracuse was 7-for-22.

"Offensively, we have to get some help for our three veterans who are playing really well," said Boeheim, whose win total stayed at 683. "If we don't get some help, we're going to struggle against good teams and Oklahoma State

tie with 6:32 to play as the Orange (7-1) couldn't hit from the field or

is as good as anybody in the country."

Oklahoma State's physical man-to-man defense and Syracuse's vaunted 2-3 zone lived up to their billings. Syracuse held a 22-21 halftime lead with neither team able to shoot better than 36 percent.

It didn't get much better for the offenses in the second half until Oklahoma State started to score in transition to break the game open.

"In the first half, we were a little too passive against the zone," McFarlin said. "In the second half, we ran the transition really well."

**No. 11 Pittsburgh 70, Memphis 51:** At New York, Carl Krauser scored all but two of his 17 points at the free-throw line for Pittsburgh in the first game at the Jimmy V Classic.

Chris Taft had 13 points and 10 rebounds for Pittsburgh, which opened with a 12-2 run and had its first 20-point lead at 30-10 with 9:04 left in the first half.

Rodney Carney led the Tigers (5-3) with 18 points.

**No. 14 Texas 86, North Texas 57:** At Austin, Texas, Brad Buckman scored 18 points and blocked seven shots to lead the Longhorns (6-1).

Leonard Hopkins scored 13 to lead North Texas (3-3).

**No. 16 Washington 98, San Diego State 69:** At Seattle, Nate Robinson scored 24 points, and Tre Simmons added a career-high 23 for the Huskies



Oklahoma State guard John Lucas, right, drives for a layup against Syracuse forward Hakim Warrick on Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden in New York. Oklahoma State defeated Syracuse 74-60.

(6-1), off to their best start since 1997-98.

Marcus Slaughter had 21 points for San Diego State (4-2).

**No. 17 Iowa 76, N. Iowa 73:** At Iowa City, Iowa, Greg Brunner scored 23 points and the Hawkeyes (7-1) held off a late rally by Northern Iowa (3-2).

Jacobson scored 25 points for the Panthers.

**No. 18 Alabama 72, Alabama State 54:** At Montgomery, Ala., Kennedy Winston scored 21 points and Chuck Davis had 18 points and nine rebounds for the Crimson Tide (7-0).

Reserve George Savage had 14

points to lead the Hornets (1-4).

**No. 24 Wisconsin 65, Wisconsin-Green Bay 55:** At Madison, Wis., Mike Wilkinson scored 18 points and Wisconsin (5-1) extended the longest home winning streak in Division I to 32 games.

Josh Lawrence and Javier Mendiburu each scored 10 points to lead Wisconsin-Green Bay (4-2).

**No. 25 Gonzaga 54, Washington State 52:** At Pullman, Wash., Ronny Turiaf scored 17 points for the Bulldogs (6-1).

Josh Akognon and Randy Green led Washington State (3-3) with 12 points each.

# Malone won't return to Lakers because of Bryant's comments

The Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — Karl Malone has ruled out a return to the Los Angeles Lakers because of comments made by Kobe Bryant in a radio interview, Malone's agent said Tuesday.

"Karl is furious," agent Dwight Manley told The Associated Press. "He felt very disrespected after being personally attacked by the first to stand up for Kobe over the last year through all his rape charge and all he went through."

Manley said remarks made by Bryant on Monday, coupled with what the agent called "recent personal attacks made in private," led Malone to his decision.

Asked if Malone might play elsewhere, Manley replied: "This certainly opens up that possibility."

Manley first told radio station KMPQ of Malone's decision.

Malone said later Tuesday that he would rather not say "I'm not coming back."

"I didn't come to take anybody's glory, anybody's accolades, anybody's anything," Malone told KCBS-TV in a telephone interview.

"But if it seems to me that I would be like I'm doing, then that I would rather move on and turn the page

## NBA briefs

in my life. "If that's your star player, you want him to want you on the team, right? I don't want to be anybody's distraction."

Bryant told XTRA on Monday he didn't believe Malone, who is recovering from knee surgery, would come back to the Lakers, calling it "just intuition."

"It's not really fair to hold it over the guys' heads that are here," Bryant said. "The guys that we have here are working hard, practicing hard every day. It's kind of tough for them to be looking over their shoulder, wondering if he's going to come back and then everybody is going to disappear."

"They are here giving me 110 percent. It's really not fair for us to sit around and speculate how long this is going to go on. I mean, you can't sit up here and speculate for the remainder of the season whether or not he is going to come back. I mean, that's not fair to the guys that are working here."

Lakers General Manager Mitch Kupchak said in a statement he hoped Malone's comments did not accurately reflect Malone's feelings about returning to the Lakers.

"If so, it is unfortunate that he would make such a decision based on the reason given," the statement added. "Kobe Bryant's interview ... merely reflected his personal opinion that Karl would probably not return to play this season. Kobe did not at any time state that Karl was not returning, nor was Kobe speaking on behalf of the Lakers management or organization."

Malone, 41, told the Lakers on Oct. 1 he was still recovering from arthroscopic surgery he underwent three months earlier on his right knee and wasn't ready to play. But he didn't rule out returning at some point this season or beyond.

Malone, the second-leading scorer in NBA history, opted out of his \$1.65 million contract fol-

lowing last season, making him a free agent.

**Sprewell suspended one game for comments made to fan**

**NEW YORK** — Latrell Sprewell was suspended for one game by the NBA on Tuesday for yelling a sexual vulgarity at a female fan during a game, the latest episode of a player clashing with spectators.

The penalty was harsher than those issued in the past by the league office for on-court outbursts. The NBA has been particularly concerned about conflicts between players and fans following a nasty brawl in Detroit 2½ weeks ago that spilled into the stands.

Sprewell responded to a female heckler with a sexually vulgar

term that was clearly picked up by a court-side microphone and broadcast by television stations KTLA in Los Angeles and KSTC in Minnesota.

**Clippers' Brand suspended one game for shoving Okafor**

**NEW YORK** — Elton Brand of the Los Angeles Clippers was suspended for one game Tuesday by the NBA for shoving Charlotte's Emeke Okafor during the fourth quarter of Monday night's Charlotte vs. Los Angeles game.

Brand wheeled and delivered a hard shove to Okafor's face and was immediately ejected. The foul was judged a category two flagrant foul.

Brand must sit out the Clippers' game Friday night against the Los Angeles Lakers.



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# Union gets OK to work toward steroid agreement

By BETH DEFALCO

The Associated Press

**PHOENIX** — Baseball players told their lawyers to work toward a new agreement with owners on tougher testing for steroids.

After negotiations with management were outlined to an executive board of the players' association Tuesday, union head Donald Fehr said the board "authorized us to attempt to conclude an agreement consistent with those discussions."

Commissioner Bud Selig reportedly has called for more frequent testing and harsher penalties for steroid use, stepping up

the intensity following reports of grand jury testimony in a steroid investigation that includes Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield.

Gene Orza, the union's chief operating officer, said Monday that discussions toward a new agreement had advanced but the sides were still apart. Management expects talks to resume next week.

"We're very pleased they're coming to the table, and we hope we can achieve a program that works," said Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer.

About 40 players were present at the meeting, union spokesman

Greg Bouris said. Players leaving the meeting declined comment or said they "could not" discuss what was said during the talks.

"I'm happy to see the union come together. We really need to clear up the public perception of what's going on," Oakland outfielder Eric Byrnes said from California in a phone interview Tuesday night. "It's been tough, because we haven't had a voice."

"The biggest thing is that the public knows it's not just about steroids as media and some outside sources are making it out to be."

"Do I think it's right? No, absolutely not. In every walk of life, in every profession for hundreds of

years, people have been looking to get an advantage. The kids, who are the most important part of this thing, need to know that this isn't OK."

Fehr defended the current program, saying it would work if "it had been given time."

"The preliminary indications, although I cannot go into details, are that the testing program we had this year had some pretty significant, positive effects," he said. "That doesn't mean, given the experience we had, that there can't be amendments that would be even better."

Fehr said he and Arizona Sen. John McCain, who has threat-

ened to propose federal legislation that would override the drug-testing provisions in baseball's collective bargaining agreement, spoke earlier in the week. Fehr expected they would talk again before the meeting ended Tuesday.

Each player was tested once in 2004 during a period between the start of spring training and the end of the regular season.

In 2003, anonymous tests were conducted as a survey, and 5 to 7 percent came back positive. Fehr thought the number of positive tests declined this year, but didn't provide specifics.

"What you will see is a significant reduction," he said.

## Cubs re-sign Garciparras; Radke stays in Minnesota

By RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Nomar Garciaparra stayed with the Chicago Cubs, Brad Radke remained with Minnesota and the New York Yankees looked ahead to deals with pitcher Jarrod Wright and second baseman Tony Womack as the first big deadline passed for teams and free agents.

On a day when 13 free agents agreed to contracts, St. Louis kept pitchers Matt Morris and Cal Eldred, along with outfielder John Mabry on Tuesday.

Forty-one players were offered arbitration by the midnight deadline, up from 25 last year. Carlos Beltran and Roger Clemens (Houston), Adrian Beltre (Los Angeles) and Carl Pavano (Florida) were among those given arbitration offers; they have until Dec. 19 to accept and can re-sign with their former teams through Jan. 8.

Among those not offered arbitration were third baseman Troy Glaus, the 2002 World Series MVP (Anaheim); first baseman Carlos Delgado (Toronto); outfielder Steve Finley (Los Angeles); outfielder Magglio Ordonez (Chicago White Sox) and pitchers Eric Milton and Kevin Millwood (Philadelphia).

Garciparras agreed to an \$8 million, one-year contract to remain with the Cubs, the team that acquired him from the Red Sox at the end of July. If he stays healthy, he could make up to \$11 million with Chicago.

"I really loved playing there, I really loved the experience I had in the short time I was there," he said. "I just felt Chicago is the best place for me. I'm looking forward to going out there and, hopefully, turning this into a long-term relationship."

Radke got an \$18 million, two-year deal from the Twins. He went 11-8 with a 3.48 ERA in 219 1/3 innings last season, teaming with Al Cy Young Award winner Johan Santana to form an outstanding duo at the top of Minnesota's rotation.

"I think it turned out for the best for both sides," Radke said. "It feels good. You know, the Twins always said that I was their top priority to sign this year and I feel the same way. I feel the Twins were my



**Nomar Garciaparra agreed to an \$8 million, one-year contract with the Chicago Cubs on Tuesday. Garciaparra, who was traded to the Cubs from the Boston Red Sox at the end of July, could make up to \$11 million if he stays healthy.**

first priority, and I'm just glad it got done."

St. Louis completed a trio of deals just before the midnight deadline. Morris, a 22-game winner in 2003, got 15-10 with a 4.72 ERA last season, got a \$2.5 million, one-year contract and the chance to earn \$4.5 million more in performance bonuses. Mabry (\$725,000) and Eldred (\$600,000) also got one-year deals.

Wright, who will turn 29 on Dec. 29, went 15-8 with a 3.28 ERA in a big comeback season with the Atlanta Braves this year, but lost both his starts in the playoffs. New York offered salary arbitration to John Lieber and Orlando Hernandez before Tuesday's midnight deadline, giving the team until Jan. 8 to re-sign two key members of last season's rotation.

However, Lieber appeared headed for Philadelphia or Cleveland.

The Yankees also reached a preliminary agreement with Womack on a \$4 million, two-year contract, giving New York a starting second baseman to replace Miguel Cairo.

While no announcements were made, both Yankees deals were confirmed by a baseball official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Womack's agreement was subject to him passing a physical. After undergoing elbow surgery before last season, the speedy leadoff hitter helped the Cardinals reach the World Series, batting .307 with 26 stolen bases and 91 runs.

In addition to Garciaparra, Chicago agreed to a \$2.5 million, one-year contract

with second baseman Todd Walker, and a \$2.7 million, two-year contract with catcher Henry Blanco.

Philadelphia agreed to a \$5.25 million, two-year deal with left-hander Rhee Cornier, Seattle settled on a \$1.75 million, one-year contract with catcher Dan Wilson, the New York Mets held on to right-hander Mike DeJean for \$1.15 million and Baltimore kept outfielder B.J. Surhoff for \$1.1 million.

Houston agreed to two deals, an \$800,000, one-year contract with outfielder Orlando Palmeiro and a minor league contract with right-hander Russ Springer. Also, right-hander Kevin Appier launched another comeback bid, agreeing to a minor league contract with the Kansas City Royals.

Boston offered arbitration to Martinez, Derek Lowe and Jason Varitek along with shortstop Orlando Cabrera, pitchers Pedro Astacio and Mike Myers, infielder Pokey Reese and first baseman David McCann.

"Some of them were offered arbitration with the understanding they won't accept arbitration," Red Sox General Manager Theo Epstein said. "That simply extends our window. Sometimes making good decisions takes time."

In addition, tens of amateur draft picks as compensation when they offer arbitration to top free agents who sign elsewhere.

Because of that, several deals that were close to completion will be finalized later this week.

## Left-hander Leiter back with Marlins

The Associated Press

**MIAMI** — Al Leiter signed a one-year contract with the Florida Marlins on Wednesday, leaving the New York Mets and returning to the team he helped pitch to the 1997 World Series title.

The 39-year-old left-hander had spent seven years with the Mets, going 10-8 with a 3.21 ERA last season. The Mets did not offer him salary arbitration before Tuesday's midnight deadline, allowing the Marlins to sign him without giving up a draft choice.

Leiter, a South Florida resident, pitched for the Marlins in 1996 and 1997. He pitched the team's first no-hitter in 1996 and left the Marlins after the World Series season for the Mets. He also pitched in the 2000 World Series, where the Mets lost to the New York Yankees.

He joins a rotation that features right-handers Josh Beckett and A.J. Burnett, left-hander Dontrelle Willis. The Marlins have also offered arbitration to their top-4 starter, Carl Pavano, who was 18-8 with a 3.00 ERA before choosing free agency after the season.

## White Sox cut ties with OF Ordonez

The Associated Press

**CHICAGO** — The Chicago White Sox cut ties with Magglio Ordonez on Tuesday, declining to offer arbitration to their All-Star right fielder.

By not offering Ordonez arbitration, the White Sox lost their right to re-sign him until May 1. They also lost any compensation if he signs with another team.

Ordonez is a career .307 hitter with 187 homers and 703 RBIs, but the decision was declining to offer arbitration to the White Sox were never able to evaluate his surgically repaired left knee. Ordonez only played 52 games last season because of the injury, and had a second surgery in September.

"There are other things we are focused on right now," General Manager Kenny Williams said Monday.

Ordonez missed 36 games after injuring his left knee May 19, then went on the disabled list for good on July 22 with bone marrow edema. Ordonez is scheduled to hold a workout at this weekend's winter meetings, but that was too late for the White Sox, who couldn't risk offering him arbitration without more details on his health.

# Utah's Smith goes from obscurity to Heisman hopeful

BY DOUG ALDEN  
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — So much has changed in Alex Smith's life the past two years, he's still trying to sort through it all.

He's gone from being a frustrated freshman considering a transfer to leading Utah into college football's elite as the first team from a mid-major conference to play in a Bowl Championship Series bowl game. The next stop on his meteoric rise could be New York for Saturday's Heisman Trophy presentation.

He'll find out Wednesday if he's a finalist in a tightly contested race that is sure to leave at least a couple of viable candidates out of the mix.

"People ask me if I want to win the Heisman. Of course I'd love to. But I just want to win the junior quarterback shield. I think the experience would be great. It's something so many people get to go to in their life."

Smith's statistics as an athlete are as good as any other quarterback's. But playing in the Mountain West Conference, those numbers aren't called into question because of the quality of competition. So far, 28 touchdown passes, four interceptions and 2,624 passing yards seem to carry an asterisk. Despite completing 66 percent of his passes now, Smith said, he's still considered a long shot to win the Heisman.

But by guiding the fifth-ranked Utes to an 11-0 record and a spot in the Fiesta Bowl, he might make the cut and get to go to New York — which surprises Smith as much as anybody.

"I didn't know how I compared to other quarterbacks. I didn't know how much publicity we were going to get. That was the part that was so shocking to me. It's still shocking to me right now," Smith said. "When you're an athlete at Utah, you've had that mind-set for a long time because you probably didn't get recruited by big schools."

As for this season, he may be sitting with an old friend, Southern California running back Reggie Bush, one year behind Smith at the elite High School outside San Diego, who could also be a Heisman finalist.

"He took a much more direct route," Smith said of Bush.

Smith wasn't recruited and ended up at Utah, where he spent a discouraging first semester under former coach Ron McBride.

He played in two games late in

the season as the Utes tried to snap out of a six-game losing streak, losing a year of eligibility.

Smith was so disheartened he thought about transferring if McBride stayed. McBride was fired after the season, so Smith decided to wait to see who was taking over. When he found out it was Urban Meyer from Bowling Green, he wasn't quite sure what to think.

"Honestly, when they announced it, I didn't know who he was and I had been following it pretty closely," he said.

That was two years ago this month and was a bigger turning point in Smith's life than he knew. Smith battled overclassmen

Brett Elliott and Lance Rice through spring practice as all three tried to grasp Meyer's spread offense.

As the youngest of the bunch, Smith said he got the most attention.

"Everything I did was wrong and we were going to change it," Smith said. "My release was too slow so we've got to speed that up. We're going to change how you throw the ball. We're going to get 30 pounds on you. You're too small. We've got to get you faster..."

Meyer did succeed in getting Smith bigger. At 6 feet 4, he was only about 180 pounds when Meyer took over. He weighs about 210 now, still a little on the light side.

Learning the offense was a bigger challenge.

"He's gone from being a third-string quarterback to the best in college football," said Meyer, who accepted the coaching job at Florida last week. "I still believe that. I know some of these other guys are starting to put up some numbers, but I still believe Alex is as good as anybody in the country."

Smith didn't take over until the third game of the 2003 season.

Elliott had broken his wrist, leaving Smith as the starter against California. Smith completed 18 of 28 passes and rushed for a touchdown in his starting debut, a 31-24 victory over the Bears.

"That's when things really started to make sense to me as far as understanding the offense. Things clicked as far as what we were trying to do," Smith said. "All of a sudden, I was like 'OK, I kind of get this.' Everything slowed down for me."

As for this season, there's still the Fiesta Bowl against Pittsburgh.

"This is like, the season's not done," Smith said. "We still have something to prove."



Southern Cal is 25-1 when junior QB Matt Leinart (11) starts. He has passed for 2,990 yards and 28 touchdowns with six interceptions this season. Leinart finished sixth in Heisman Trophy balloting in 2003.

## Southern Cal thankful for injury that pushed Leinart to gridiron

Shoulder problem in high school made him quit baseball

BY JOHN NADEL  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Matt Leinart was quite a baseball prospect, showing so much promise as a left-handed pitcher that scouts took notice before high school.

"I threw heat, man," he said with a smile. "That's really what I wanted to do. And then, I blew my shoulder out, right after football season my freshman year."

Leinart would not pitch again, instead changing his focus to football.

Good move.

Since succeeding Carson Palmer as Southern California's starting quarterback 15 months ago, Leinart has guided the top-ranked Trojans to a 25-1 record.

Leinart finished sixth in Heisman Trophy balloting as a sophomore last season, and he's among the leading contenders for this year's award, to be presented Saturday in New York. The finalists will be announced Wednesday.

It all began for Leinart with that shoulder injury.

"It's crazy how everything fell into place," Leinart said.

Leinart's shoulder was damaged to the point that he needed reconstructive surgery. And that wasn't the worst of it. Leinart's doctor recommended that as a precaution he not play competitive sports as a sophomore at Mater Dei High in suburban Santa Ana.

"It was pretty tough on him," said Leinart's father, Bob.

That's an understatement.

"I was really depressed," Leinart said. "Sports was my whole life. But it definitely made me a better person, going through that so young. But it sure was hard."

The 6-foot-5, 225-pound Leinart went on to become a star at Mater Dei, but he had to wait his turn at USC. And he almost got passed over, barely winning the starting quarterback job in a tight battle with three others in the spring of 2003.

Leinart hadn't thrown a pass at USC when he took his first snap at Auburn the following fall, and

he had to fill the shoes of the Heisman Trophy-winning Palmer.

No problem. Leinart passed for 3,556 yards and 38 touchdowns with only nine interceptions in leading the Trojans to a 12-1 record and The Associated Press national championship.

Some said the presence of Mike Williams and Kearby Colbert, two of the country's top wide receivers, had a lot to do with Leinart's success.

Maybe so, but it was more of the same this year while breaking the record for new starting receivers. Leinart has passed for 2,990 yards and 28 touchdowns with only six interceptions in leading No. 1 USC (12-0) to the Bowl Championship Series title game in the Orange Bowl against No. 2 Oklahoma.

"Matt's made a huge progression since he's been here," USC tight end Alex Holmes said. "Since he started playing, he's been spectacular."

Offensive coordinator Norm



Among Division I-A players, Matt Leinart ranks in the top 10 in touchdown passes (28, sixth), completion percentage (66.6%, eighth), passer rating (154.5, ninth), completions (251, ninth) and passing yards (2,990, 10th).

Chow says Leinart is as good as any quarterback he's coached — and that's great company. Along with Palmer, Chow has tutored Philip Rivers at North Carolina State, and Steve Young, Ty Detmer and Jim McMahon, at BYU.

Leinart became a Heisman candidate not long after the 21-year-old junior led the Trojans to their co-national title last season. Then it got a big boost on Nov. 27, when he passed for a career-high 400 yards and a school record-tying five touchdowns in a 41-10 victory over Notre Dame.

He might have come back to the pack last week, though. He was an efficient 24-for-34 for 242 yards with one interception in USC's 29-24 victory over UCLA. He didn't throw a touchdown pass for the first time as a starter.

Meanwhile, Leinart's backfield-mate Reggie Bush ran for 204 yards and two stunning TDs against the Bruins to bolster his Heisman résumé.

The mild-mannered Leinart has taken all the hype and attention in stride.

"He is very laid back," his father said. "Nothing bothers him. He doesn't mind pressure. That's how he is, all the time. Except on the field. He's intense, but still calm. Where that comes from, I'm not sure. Don't ask me. It cracks me up."

Leinart said playing baseball before large crowds as early as age 11 helped mold him.

"That's one of the reasons I'm known as a cool, poised quarterback," he said. "It's just my personality. I just go with the flow, don't stress out about little things. I'm not going to get caught up in all the pressure, all the hype. It can all be taken away from you at any time."

Leinart's steady leadership and calm demeanor in many ways have defined the Trojans during their 21-game winning streak.

"As a parent, the best thing about Matt is he's a great kid," the elder Leinart said. "He's grounded, he's not cocky. The spotlight hasn't changed him at all."



# Urban renewal under way at Florida

After whirlwind weekend, Meyer arrives in Gainesville ready to work

By MARK LONG  
The Associated Press

GAINESSVILLE, Fla. — When Urban Meyer moved from Notre Dame to Bowling Green to Utah in five years, he explained the relocations to his three children by telling them he was like a mountain climber trying to get to the top.

After accepting the Florida job last week, his 6-year-old son simply asked, "Daddy, are you there yet?"

Meyer smiled and responded, "Yes, this is the top."

Few would disagree. The former Utah coach was formally introduced at Florida on Tuesday, getting a campus tour and meeting his new team for the first time since agreeing to a seven-year, \$14 million contract.

He said all the right things, too. He talked about winning championships, praised coach Steve Spurrier and said he has no aspirations to coach in the NFL. He



Florida's new head football coach Urban Meyer speaks to the media Tuesday in Gainesville, Fla.

even took shots at Florida State and Tennessee, recalling famed Spurrier lines about "Free Shoes University" and "You can't spell Citrus without UT."

"This is a place you can put your feet down hopefully for a long time," he said.

Although Meyer will coach the fifth-ranked Utes against No. 19 Pittsburgh in the Fiesta Bowl, he already has started working for the Gators. He called recruits over the weekend and began what will be a difficult month of transition from one program to the other.

He spent the weekend celebrating his team's Bowl Championship Series berth, had dinner with Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley on Monday and flew to Gainesville on a private jet with his wife and three children Tuesday morning.

Then he got a complete tour, capped by a visit to Ben Hill Griffin Stadium.

His eyes widened as he walked into "The Swamp" and noticed references to the six Southeastern Conference titles, the two Heisman Trophy winners and the

1996 national championship. He also saw an altered photo of himself — wearing an orange and blue Gators jacket — on both scoreboards along with a welcome message.

He already knew expectations would be high, but his trip into the recently renovated stadium made it a reality.

"Is it the toughest conference in the country? Absolutely. Is it one of the toughest schedules in the country? Absolutely. Can we recruit the best student-athletes in the country? Absolutely. It's a great challenge and it is different."

"To stand here and say that we had some great success at Bowling Green and some great success at Utah, we know we have to work that much harder to have great success here."

The Gators fired coach Ron Zook in October after a 20-13 record in two-plus seasons, several close losses, some notable late collapses and a heated encounter with members of a campus fraternity.

## Utah promotes Whittingham to head coach

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah defense coordinator Kyle Whittingham was hired as the school's football coach to replace Urban Meyer.

Whittingham rejected an offer from rival BYU to take the Utes' job. He was to be introduced at a news conference Wednesday. Utah sports information director Liz Abel said.

Whittingham will replace Meyer as Utah's coach following the Jan. 1 Fiesta Bowl. Meyer was introduced Tuesday as the new coach at Florida.

Whittingham was to have led the Utes' Tuesday practice, but didn't attend to consider the offers from the two schools.

Whittingham will have to start building his own staff immediately. Offensive coordinator Mike Sanford was hired Monday to coach UNLV, and both he and Meyer could leave any number of assistant coaches with them.

# Illinois players satisfied Zook is right man for the job

By JIM PAUL  
The Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — After Illinois fired football coach Ron Turner, some of the players he left behind started doing some research. They decided very quickly that Ron Zook would be a good fit for their team.

Turns out athletic director Ron Guenther agreed.

Zook became Illinois' 22nd head football coach Tuesday, and promised to turn around a program that has struggled to just four victories in the past two seasons.

"Once we heard the name Ron Zook, he was, I think, the players' choice," defensive tackle Ryan Mathia said. "He's the guy that all the players wanted to come in here. How Mr. Guenther probably didn't know that, but it all worked out well."

Running back E.B. Halsey said he spent some time watching Zook's video highlights.

"You could just see that energy that he's going to bring to the sideline," Halsey said. "I saw [in] one clip he had to chest bump one of the players. Everybody's excited for that."

Zook, 50, takes over a program that Guenther decided had "reached a point of no return" in the recruiting department. The Illini have won only five Big Ten titles since winning the conference championship under Turner in 2001 and persuading blue-chip players to commit to the Illini had become difficult.

But Zook brings a reputation as a tireless recruiter.

"Recruiting is the lifeblood of college football," he said Tuesday. "It's a 24/7 job."

Zook said the third phone call

he made after taking the job late Monday afternoon — after calling his wife and brother — was to the coach of a player he had been trying to recruit.

Zook has a five-year contract at Illinois worth about \$10 million a year, said university spokeswoman Robin Kaler.

Guenther's search took 14 days and he said he talked to several candidates, although he would not identify them.

"I think this was a great process," said Interim Chancellor Richard Herman, who approved

Zook's hiring. "We really did search far and wide."

Zook was fired at Florida on Oct. 25, two days after the Gators lost at Mississippi State. But he coached the Gators for the rest of the season and led them to a 3-1 record in their final four games and an invitation to the Peach Bowl.

In three seasons at Florida, he went 23-14 with impressive victories over eventual national champion LSU last season and an upset of Florida State on Nov. 20, the Gators' first win in Tallahassee since 1986.

# Petrino staying put at Louisville

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Louisville coach Bobby Petrino said Tuesday he plans to stay with the Cardinals, taking himself off the market for teams with coaching vacancies.

"I want to make it clear that I'm not interested in any other coaching jobs, and am happy at the University of Louisville," Petrino said in a statement issued by the school.

The statement came after the Mississippi athletic director Pete Boone said that Petrino's agent had contacted him about that school's coaching vacancy. Boone said the agent later called back to say the coach was no longer interested.

Louisville athletic director Tom Jurich said Tuesday night he was worried he wouldn't be able to convince Petrino to stay. Jurich is an athletic director at one of these high-profile universities, he'd be the first guy on my list," Jurich said.

## College football briefs

"He's put together a magnificent product."

Petrino guided the Cardinals to a 10-1 record, a Conference USA championship this season and a No. 7 ranking, the highest in the school's history. His two-year mark at Louisville is 19-5.

The Cardinals will play Boise State in the Liberty Bowl on Dec. 31.

## Syracuse keeping Pasqualoni

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — For the third time in three years, Syracuse football coach Pat Pasqualoni has received a vote of confidence from athletic director Jake Crouthamel, and Chancellor Nancy Cantor announced Monday night that Pasqualoni would return in 2005 for his 15th season as head coach.

"Paul knows there's no guarantee, that he must have a plan for

Syracuse to restore its football signature," Cantor said.

Next season promises to be pressure-packed. Crouthamel, one of Pasqualoni's staunchest supporters, is retiring in June and whoever succeeds him will evaluate the football program and make recommendations to Cantor on whether any changes should be made.

The Orange (6-5, 4-2 Big East) tied for the conference championship and will play in the Champs Sports Bowl.

## Boise State's Hawkins signs five-year, \$2.6M extension

BOISE, Idaho — Boise State coach Dan Hawkins signed a five-year, \$2.6 million contract extension on Tuesday that would keep him with the Broncos through the 2009 season.

During Hawkins' four years as head coach, Boise State has won the consecutive Western Athletic Conference championships and compiled a 44-6 record, including a perfect 11-0 this year.

# Wie to play again in PGA event after just missing cut last year

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Michelle Wie will make another appearance on the PGA Tour after accepting a sponsor's exemption Tuesday night to play next month in the Sony Open.

The exemption was expected, especially after Wie came within one shot of making the cut in the Sony Open last year.

"This is really great," Wie said in a telephone interview. "I had such a great experience last year. Hopefully I'll do a lot better. My goal is to be in the top 20."

Wie was 14 last January when she shot a 68 in the second round, the lowest score ever by a female amateur, excluding amateurs. She finished at even-par 140 at Waialae Country Club.

## Armstrong won't decide until May about Tour of France

AUSTIN, Texas — Six-time defending Tour of France champion Lance Armstrong says he

## Sports briefs

won't decide whether to race in cycling's most prestigious event in 2005 until next May, two months before the race begins.

Armstrong, 33, told the Austin American-Statesman in Wednesday's editions he'll compete for another two years, but that he's knocked out of the race, according to 2005 schedule—racing in the European spring classics or the Tour of France.

## Colombian boxer dies after KO

PANAMA CITY, Panama — Colombian boxer Carlos Meza died Tuesday, four days after being knocked out by Ricardo Cordoba in the Atlantic port city of Colon.

Meza, 26, never regained consciousness after being knocked out in the 12th round by a bantamweight bout against Ricardo Cordoba in the Atlantic port city of Colon.

# Defense has started to even score for Jets

BY ANDREA ADELSON

The Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Early in the season, the New York Jets had a defense that was far from perfect.

In three of their first four games, the Jets jumped to big leads before the defense wilted and allowed their opponent back into the contest. Against Cincinnati in the opener, the Jets led 24-13 going into the fourth quarter before holding on 31-24.

They led San Diego 27-7 before the Chargers made a game of it; the Jets won 34-28.

Buffalo scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns to take a brief lead before New York rallied for a 16-14 victory.

Things have changed. The Jets have not given up a second-half score in three straight games and six overall, and they lead the league in scoring defense. They are allowing 14.6 points a game, on pace to break the team record of 15.4 set in 1993, when they finished 8-8 and didn't make the playoffs.

"From the first game to right now, they've come a long way," coach Herman Edwards said. "They've got a lot of pride to train hard, and that's what they've got to do down the stretch. They know the defense has to show up in December."

Especially with a tough stretch ahead and a playoff berth in the balance. The Jets (9-3) start the final four games of their season at Pittsburgh (11-1) on Sunday, and also have games against Seattle (6-6) and New England (11-1) before closing at St. Louis (6-6).

The Jets have a two-game lead in the wild-card race, and made the playoffs the other times they started 9-3 (1985, 1988).

They got off to a better start in 1986, going 10-2 and reaching the postseason as well.

Playing solid defense gives them a chance to keep that trend going.

So far, the Jets have given up an average of 290.8 yards a game, compared to the 324.4 they yielded last year. The biggest improvement has been in run defense, where the Jets rank seventh, allowing 99.8 yards a game, compared to 143.4 (28th) they allowed last year.

Dewayne Robertson has been a key to stopping the run. The No. 4 overall pick from last year struggled through his rookie season but made strides in the offseason. He lost 10-15 pounds and came in with confidence, announcing during training camp, "Can't nobody block me."

Robertson has plugged lanes in the running game and gotten pressure in the passing game. Edwards and defensive coordinator Donnie Henderson have lobbied for Robertson to make the Pro Bowl.

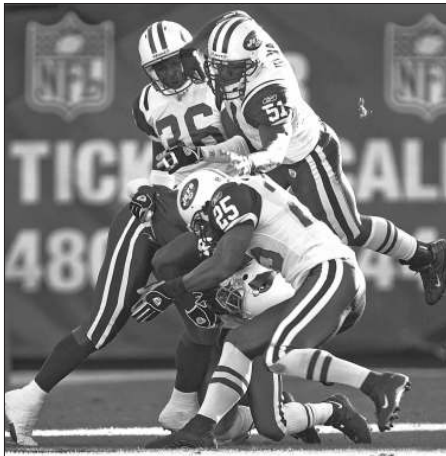
Another improvement of late has been the play of the secondary.

Henderson called the unit the weakest on the team earlier in the year. In the first seven games, the Jets gave up 23 plays of 20 yards or more.

In the past five, they have allowed nine, including just two to the high-powered Houston Texans. The Jets have stepped up their takeaways, too, with six in the past two games.

Cornerback David Barrett, a free-agent acquisition from Arizona, has been part of the resurgence. He got an interception against the Cardinals and Texans, his first two of the year, and already has a career-high 10 passes defensed.

His two big plays in the Houston game



Jets Reggie Tongue (25), Jonathan Vilma (51), David Barrett (36) and Donnie Abraham (hidden) swarm Cardinals receiver Anquan Boldin. The secondary has made great strides.

helped the Jets stay in it. On the first drive, he broke up a fourth-down pass for Andre Johnson in the end zone. The Jets just before halftime, Chad Pennington threw an interception, giving Houston the ball at the Jets 36 with a chance to add to its one-point lead.

But Barrett got a pick of his own two players later, squelching all momentum.

"Barrett has come a long ways in a short amount of time, he's one of those guys who stepped up his game," Henderson said.

"He's the best one we've got back there."

Barrett is just happy to be on a winning team after spending so many years in Arizona. "To me, this is heaven," he said.

Especially if the defense keeps playing well.

"They want to become one of the better defenses in football," Edwards said.

"We're not that yet, but I think their aspirations are to become that, and they're doing a good job."

# Rookie RB Jones has Cowboys feeling good again

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — The Dallas Cowboys can only imagine how different their season might be had Julius Jones been healthy the whole time.

"It's his fault that we lost seven games. It is," receiver Keyshawn Johnson said, smiling. "Ask him, I tell him that after every time that he scores a touchdown."

If the rookie who missed eight games keeps running like this, the Cowboys (5-7) just might sneak into the playoffs.

Jones ran for 198 yards and three touchdowns Monday night at Seattle, scoring the last on a 17-yard draw play with 32 seconds left in a 43-39 win. That was just more than a minute after Johnson's acrobatic 34-yard catch in the back of the end zone and a recovered onside kick.

With Jones back in the lineup, the Cowboys have won consecutive games for the first time since September and are still in playoff contention. He has 429 yards rushing and five touchdowns on 93 carries in three starts since returning from a broken shoulder blade suffered in his NFL debut in Week 2.

"The running back was pretty



Cowboys running back Julius Jones has carried 93 times for 429 yards in the past three games since returning from a broken shoulder.

good, in case you didn't notice," coach Bill Parcells said. "I told the team this, that we're better off right now as a team than at any point this year. ... We've just got more balance in our attack, and we're a bit better now."

Thanks to the rookie whose durability and toughness was being questioned by Parcells earlier this season.

Dallas, which had lost six of seven before the past two wins, still has a chance for its second straight playoff appearance under Parcells. The Cowboys are among six 5-7 teams a game behind in the standings for the NFL's second wild-card spot.

The Cowboys would have the tiebreaker against Seattle (6-6), which is tied with St. Louis for the

NFC West lead. They also have wins against Chicago and Detroit, two of the other 5-7 teams, and their regular-season finale is against the New York Giants.

"Hopefully, we can get up enough energy to play the last month good," Parcells said. "I've always told my teams what you do after Thanksgiving, that's what counts."

Jones missed the season opener because of sore ribs, and then had just five carries in his debut against Cleveland before breaking his shoulder. He didn't play again until Nov. 21 at Baltimore, when he started to answer the questions Parcells had about him.

In his first start, Jones had 30 carries for 81 yards, and four days later carried 33 times for 150 yards and two touchdowns in a Thanksgiving Day win over Chicago. Only Emmitt Smith (237 yards) and Tony Dorsett (206) have rushed for more yards in a Cowboys game than Jones did against the Seahawks.

"Once again, I proved that I can handle the load," Jones said. "I go out every game with a chip on my shoulder to prove something."

Jones had 30 of the 31 carries Monday night, the other going to Vinny Testaverde when the

41-year-old quarterback scrambled away from pressure. Eddie George didn't even get in, ending his streak of 139 straight games played.

Jones isn't only surprising other people with his performance.

"I had high expectations of myself. I go out and expect myself to perform at the best level, top level," he said. "But I am somewhat surprising myself."

And showing why Parcells was willing to trade out of the first round in the draft when he had his choice of any running back, and waited until the second round to get Jones from Notre Dame.

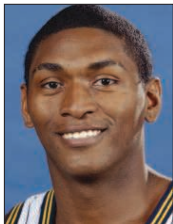
One of the team's primary concerns last April was that the rookie might not be able to handle the first round in the draft when he had his choice of any running back, and waited until the second round to get Jones from Notre Dame.

"This is not a slap to other running backs," Johnson said, "but there are some players in pro sports that have it. Whatever it is, he is one of those guys who has just got it."

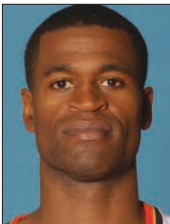


## SPORTS

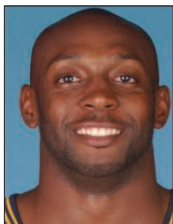
Kings win for 12th time  
in 13 games but don't make up  
any ground on Suns, Page 25



Ron Artest



Stephen Jackson



Anthony Johnson



David Harrison



Indiana Pacers' Jermaine O'Neal, left, was charged with two counts of misdemeanor assault and battery for his role a brawl that began on the court and spilled into the stands at The Palace of Auburn Hills on Nov. 19. Pacers Ron Artest, David Harrison, Stephen Jackson and Anthony Johnson were charged with one misdemeanor count. Five fans also were charged in the incident.

# 10 charged in NBA brawl

## 5 Pacers, 5 fans face misdemeanors; chair-thrower charged with felony

BY SARAH KARUSH

The Associated Press

PONTIAC, Mich. — Five Indiana Pacers players and five Detroit Pistons fans were charged Wednesday in one of the worst brawls in U.S. sports history — a melee last month that broke out on the basketball court and spread to the stands.

Pacers Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson, David Harrison and Anthony Johnson all were charged

with one count of assault and battery, a misdemeanor that could bring three months in jail and a \$500 fine. Jermaine O'Neal was charged with two counts of assault and battery.

The fans were charged with the same offenses. One of them, Bryant Jackson, 35, was charged with felony assault — punishable by up to four years in prison — for allegedly hurling a chair.

The fight broke out Nov. 19 during a game against the Detroit Pist-

ons after an on-court dispute over a foul. A fan tossed a drink at Artest, who then charged into the stands and began beating a man he thought had done it.

Jackson joined Artest and threw punches at fans, who punched back. O'Neal hit a fan who ran onto the court.

Two days later, NBA Commissioner David Stern suspended Artest for the season, Jackson for 30 games and O'Neal for 25.

Among the fans charged was

John Green, the man accused of throwing the cup.

"John Green ... in my mind single-handedly incited this whole interaction between the fans and players and probably is the one that's most culpable," prosecutor David Goreyca said.

The fans charged included Detroit Pistons star Ben Wallace's brother, David, of Selma, Ala.

The players' union is appealing the suspensions of Artest, Jackson and O'Neal, and a grievance hearing is scheduled for Thursday in New York.

**Malone cites  
Bryant's  
comments  
as reason  
he won't return  
to Lakers**

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**Major leaguers  
authorize union  
to work toward  
tougher steroid  
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**Heisman hopefuls  
Leinart, Smith  
took rapid route  
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becoming starters**

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Southern Cal  
quarterback  
Matt Leinart

Utah  
quarterback  
Alex Smith



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